

Christian & Brotherly
Advises

Given forth from time to time

By the
Yearly Meeting
in

London

Alphabetically Digested
under

Proper Heads.

Transcribed and Examined, By
Benjamin Bourne — London, 1756.

Appeals

N^o 1. Concerning Appeals.

1727.

1727

This Meeting Agrees, That for the time to come, a Committee be yearly Chosen at the Opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is Chosen, to Judge of the fitness of all Appeals. Receiving all Appeals that shall be Offered, And to hear all Appeals, which they shall Judge come duly before them; And Report their Opinion thereof, in Order for the Approbation, Rejection, or Amendment of this Meeting: And that no deputy of any City or County from which an Appeal shall come be admitted a Member of that Committee in Relation to such Appeals.

And whereas it is inconvenient that the Time of Appeals should be unlimited; It is therefore Agreed by this Meeting. That if any Person or Persons shall think him, her or themselves Injured or Aggrieved by the Monthly, Two Weeks, or other Meeting, of which He, She, or They were a Member or Members. Such Person or Persons may then Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting to which the Said Monthly, Two Weeks, or Other Meeting doth belong; Provided Notice be given of such intended Appeal in three Months after such Judgment given, And the Appeal be Lodged in Such Quarterly Meeting within Six Months after Such Notice.

And if any Person or Persons be dissatisfied with the Judgment of any Quarterly Meeting, They may Appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting, He, She or They giving Notice to the said Quarterly Meeting of their Intention to Appeal within Six Months after the Judgment of Such Quarterly Meeting be given; And such Appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting, if it may with Convenience, or to the next following after it.

And

Appeals

1727-

And if any Monthly, Two weeks, or other Meeting, Do not belong to any Quarterly Meeting, But are immediate or other to the Members of the Yearly Meeting, That then Persons Appealing from the Judgment of such Meeting, shall give Notice to the Said Meeting of their Intentions to Appeal within three Months after the Judgment given, And shall Lodge His, Her, or their Appeal in the Succeeding Yearly Meeting, if it may conveniently be done, If not, in the Yearly Meeting that shall next follow after it.

Persons not
pursuing these
directions
excluded.

And that all Persons Testified Against, not pursuing the Directions before given with respect to the Time of giving Notice, and Lodging their Appeals, shall be Excluded from any Right of Appealing afterwards.

1728.

1728

Method for
choosing the
Committee.

In Order to put the Directions of last Yearly Meeting into Practice, respecting Appeals, It is now Agreed, That Twelve Cities or Counties as they stand Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, do Each for themselves Name One of their Members, who are to constitute that Committee for this Year, Except as before Excepted; And in like Manner next Year, Twelve Cities or Counties, as they do stand next Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, are Each for themselves to Name One of their Members to constitute that Committee, under the same Exception; And so Successively every Year, until all the Cities and Counties have had their Nomination, which being finished, the Correspondent Book is to be begun again; And that the Service of this Committee may be as little Burdensome as possible to the Friends to whose Lot it shall happen; It is Desired & Directed, That all Appeals which shall be brought from any Person or Place, shall

Appeals

3

1728 shall be Lodged with the Clerk of this Meeting for the time
appeals to be
delivered on being, at the furthest in the Afternoon of the Sixth Day of
Sixth Day the week in the Sitting of the Meeting.

And it is appointed, that at the Rising of the Meeting
in the same afternoon on the Sixth Day of the week, the
Clerk for the time being shall read over the Names of the Friends
chosen on the Committee of Appeals, and then acquaint them,
that he hath One or more Appeals (if such there be) and deliver
the Same unto them, Requesting them to Proceed thereon.
any Seven according to the Advice of this Meeting; and that any Seven
act. of the said Committee so Chosen shall have Power to Act, accord-
ing to the Direction of the above Mentioned Minutes: And it is
also the Agreement of this Meeting, That no Member of any
City or County against whom an Appeal may be made, be
Admitted a Member of the said Committee.

1733.

1733. This Meeting taking into their Serious Consideration, Some
inconveniencies that may attend the Nominating Persons to
hear and Judge of the Truth or Untruth of Appeals brought
No Friend before this Meeting. Do Agree, That for the time to come, No
from any Friend of any County from whence, or against whom such Ap-
County from
or agst appeals may come, shall be deemed proper to be Nominated thereto;
whom any But that the Meeting proceed to a Nomination of Other Persons
appeal comes
to be in the next Counties; And that Such Counties as are Omitted for
named. the reason aforesaid, be first Called on next Year.

1736.

1736 And Dear Friends, In the Spirit of the Gospel which is Peace
on Earth & Goodwill to all Men. I labour to Maintain the Disci-
pline of the Church, wherein You will be favoured with Wisdom
prudently to Determine Affairs that may come before You,
being and be instrumental to prevent many troublesome Appeals from
coming to this Meeting which tend to prolong it and give
trouble.

Appeals

1720 *Whereas* to *Trinidad*: And We Earnestly desire all *Friends* who are proper Members of the Society, especially Such who are Qualified for Service, would be Carefull to Attend all Meetings for the Discipline of the Church.

See Arbitrations, anno 1720, page, 13.

1725.

1725 Whereas it is Apprehended that the Minute concerning Appeals, made in 1727, may leave Room for some to Conclude, That on due Notice being Once given by the Appellant or Appellants to the Meeting against which He, She, or They may Appeal, That He, She or They may be at Liberty without any further Notice, to bring his, her or their Appeal either to the Yearly Meeting Succeeding, or that which follows; This Meeting Orders to prevent Disputes that may arise on that head, That if any Appellant or Appellants do not bring his, her or their Appeal to the Yearly Meeting ensuing, Due Notice once given, that then if He, She, or They continue their Appeal, Notice shall be Repeated in Writing to the Meeting against which He, She or They may Appeal, at least three Months preceding the Yearly Meeting.

No appeal to be read a second Time. And it is agreed by this Meeting, to prevent the being troubled with a Repetition of Appeals, That no Appeal shall be received a Second Time, which hath been once determined here.

Arbitrations

9

N^o 2. Concerning Arbitrations.

108A.

108A

Agreed, That the Choosing of Arbitrators is proper in
In what Cases of Differences about a Man's property: But in Differ-
ences about Religious Matters, as Schism, &c. The Rule of
Christ is to be Observed, If thy Brother shall Trespas against
thee &c Matt: 18; 15. 16. 17. — the Church being Judge.

1092.

1092

Advised, That in all Cases of Controversy and Difference,
the Persons concerned therein, Either speedily Compose the
difference between themselves, Or make Choice of some faithful
to choose unconcerned friends to determine the same, and they to Stand
arbitrators to their Determination; Or Otherwise if they cannot agree upon
or to Submit the Choice, to Submit to the Monthly Meeting's Choice of certain
Persons meet to Inspect and determine the Controversy, and to
Meeting Stand to their Award and final Determination thereof; That
Such Controversys may not be continued to cause a Slink and
all Reproach, for they are a great Shame and Scandal. And
Controversies that Care be taken for the Speedy Ending of all Controversys &
to be Speedily ended Differences among Friends; And all Friends to take heed of
being Parties with One or Another for the prolonging thereof. And
such as Refuse to Submit to Truths Order, or to hear
be disowned the Church of Christ, are to be Disowned & Testified against,
according to Christ's Doctrine on that behalf.

1093.

1093

Advised, That all Differences happening in Personal or
Temporal Occasions be Speedily ended, according to the advice
given in Our last Yearly Meeting Epistle; And if any Doubtful
Point in Law be in the Case, then both Parties may advise
with some well knowing in the Law; For if any Lust to be
Contentious

Arbitrations

1093 " Contentious we have no such Custom in the Churches of
" Christ.

1090.

1096 *Not to Sue another at Law.* Advised, That no Friend shall go from the Order of Truth and former Advice, to Sue One Another at Law; But by themselves or by Reference, that all Differences among Friends be speedily Ended, and not prolonged or Delayed.

And, Dear Friends, Shun all Occasions of Strife, and Discord, and take Care to make a Speedy End of all Differences that are or may happen among yourselves, as hath been often advised, and that according to the holy Apostle's Doctrine; Read 1. Cor. 6. v. 1 to 8.

1097.

1097 Whereas, It sometimes happeneth, to the hurt of Truth, and grief of many Friends, that Differences do Arise amongst Some professing Truth about Outward things, It is therefore by this Meeting thought Convenient and Advised, That when any Friend or Friends shall hear of any such difference — betwixt any Friends in that Meeting to which they do belong, That they forthwith speak to, and tenderly advise the Persons between whom the Difference is, to make a Speedy End thereof; And if that Friend or Friends Do not comply with their Advice, that then they take to them One or Two Friends more, and again Exhort them to End their difference, *between whom any difference happens to be* — And if They or either of them Refuse, then to let them know that it is the Advice and Counsel of Friends, that they should each Choose an Equal Number of Indifferent, Impartial & Judicious Friends to hear and Speedily Determine the Same, And that they do bind themselves to Stand to their Award and Determination, Or the Award and Determination of the Major Part of them, that shall be made & Signed by the Arbitrators, or the Award & Arbitration made & Signed by the Umpire if there be One.

Arbitrations

11

1097 One Agreed. unto.

Also this Meeting doth Advise, that if any Person profess-
ing the Truth among us, and Esteemed. a Friend, shall refuse
Speedily to End the Difference - or Refer it as before Advised
Complaint be made of that Person or Persons unto the Monthly
Meeting to which he doth belong: And if after Admonition
He shall Refuse so to Refer his Case, that then the Meeting Do
Testify against such a Person, and Disown him to be of Our
Society, until he shall Comply with the equal Methods and
Agreements of Our Society; And by such his Compliance doth
the Person declare that he is for Peace, and doth Seek and Desire it.
And when any Person so Refusing is Testified against by the
Meeting & Disowned, the Other Person may have his Liberty
to Seek his Remedy against him at Law.

And if any Friends, that shall be Chosen to hear & Determine
any such Difference as aforesaid, after they have Accepted -
thereof, and the Parties differing are become bound to Stand
to their Determination, shall Decline & Refuse to Stand and
Act as Arbitrators, that then such Person or Persons so refusing
be required to give the Reasons of their Refusal unto the
Monthly Meeting to which they belong, and if that Meeting
shall not Esteem those Reasons sufficient justly to Excuse
them, then the Meeting to Press them to stand to what they
have Accepted.

And if after such Admonition, They shall continue to
Refuse to Stand as Arbitrators, that then the Meeting do
Testify against them or Either of them, as such as are not
Subject to the just Rules of Our Society, ~~and~~ neither ought
to be admitted thereunto, until he or they Condemn and
Retract the Same.

And it is the Advice of this Meeting, That Persons
differing about Outward things, Do as little as may be
trouble

Arbitrations

1697 Trouble publick Ministering Friends with being Arbitrators in Such Cases.

And that all persons differing be Exhorted by the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, when their Cases are referred, to perform the award made Signed & given thereupon as aforesaid, to Stand to & perform the said Award, which they have bound themselves to perform: And if any shall Refuse so to Do, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such Person doth belong, upon Notice thereof to them given, shall Admonish him thereunto, and if after Admonition he persist to Refuse, then the Meeting to Testify against him as before.

No Friend to Sue another at Law. To Conclude, It is the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting, That if any Person professing Truth shall Arrest, Sue or Implead at Law; any Other Person professing Truth, before he hath proceeded in the Methods herein before Recommended; or That such Person doth therein Depart from the Principles of Truth, and the known Way thereof, and Acts contrary thereunto, and Ought to be dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to: therefore, and if He shall not give Satisfaction to the Meeting for such his disorderly proceeding by Condemning it, and himself therein, that then he be Disowned by the Meeting therefore.

1705.

1705 If any Difference is Depending or shall arise between Meetings any Persons professing Truth amongst us, It is Advised and Desired that effectual Care, in the Wisdom of God may be taken by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which Such Persons belong, to put a full & Speedy End thereto, as has been formerly Advised, particularly in the Year 1697.

1720.

Minute of 1697 explained.

The Report of the Friends appointed on the Minute of 1697, Received with an Explanation; Which was Several Times Read, and finally Accepted by the Meeting.

Arbitrations

13

1720

The Report & Explanation aforesaid, are as followeth.

The Report.

It is the Sense & Judgment of this Committee, that the Minute of 1697, Relating to Arbitrations is Consistent with the Practice of Our Antient Friends, and very fit for a General Rule for the Procedure of Friends on such Occasions.

Yet since general Rules commonly admit of Exceptions or Explanations, and divers Friends having Objected some particular Cases wherein they Apprehend Difficulties may arise (which yet We apprehend is sufficiently provided for by the Discretionary Power vested in the respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings) yet in Condescension to those Friends, We Declare, That as No Persons ought to be Disowned without tender Considerations of every Circumstance attending such Cases; and due Admonition by the Monthly Meetings to the Parties concerned, so We tenderly Advise that the Several Meetings Proceed with the utmost Circumspection therein.

Liberty to appeal.

And that if any Person so denied by any Monthly Meeting shall Apprehend He is not justly Dealt with, He hath his Liberty, as in all other Cases amongst us, to appeal to the Quarterly Meeting, who after thorough Examination of the Case, and all the Circumstances and Procedure attending it, shall Proceed to Confirm or Reverse the Same, as they in the Fear & Wisdom of God shall See Cause.

And whereas Sometimes it so happens, that Persons under our Profession, have proved so Base & unworthy, as when they have Run themselves into Debt, to Endeavour fraudently & hastily to Remove themselves, or their Effects, to prevent Justice; whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been deprived of an Opportunity of the Common Method of Friends Specified in the Minute aforesaid, It is hereby Declared, that the Last Paragraph, of the Said Minute which prohibits Friends

Arbitrations

1720 Friends to Sue or Arrest One Another &c., Is not intended to prevent Such evil Persons, in those Practices, from being Dealt with by a Legal process, as the Nature of the Case may require: Of which Circumstances the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so it is not to be doubted but they will do Justice to the Parties Concerned therein.

Whereas upon the dissatisfaction of several Friends with some parts of the Minute of this Meeting, Anno 1697, relating to Arbitrations of Differences about Outward things, there were some Friends appointed to Read, Hear & Consider the said Minute, and the dissatisfaction therewith, and make Report; And accordingly the greatest part of the Friends appointed for that Service did bring in their Report, which being Read, did not prove so generally to the Satisfaction of Friends as could have been desired: Now this Meeting being fervently desirous, That the Universal Peace of the Church, and every Sincere Member thereof, may as much as possible be preserved, and all Occasion of Uneasiness, as much as may be removed, Doth Accept & Receive the Report above Mentioned, with this further Explanation.

That so much of the Minute of 1697, before Mentioned, as doth relate Simply to the Entering into Bonds, and so far as Arbitrations may be Refused on Account of Disputes & Questions in Law, relating to Executors or Trustees, In both these Cases, that there be a particular and Special Regard had to the Nature & Circumstances of things, It not being either Now, nor at the Time of making the said Minute, the Intent of this Meeting, to Lay any unwarrantable Burthen on any Brother, nor upon the Church of God.

Advised, That due Care be taken, that all Offences, — In Spasms and Differences be Speedily ended and Composed, in God's Wisdom, according to Gospel Order among Us, either by Mutual

Arbitrations

15

1720 Mutual forgiveness, Christian Counsel, or just Arbitration, as the Case may require, and Safely admit or Allow; And the Choice of Arbitrators and Umpires, be of such just impartial Men, as Neither Party can justly Except against, but both agree to their Choice.

1720.

1720 Speedy Ending of Differences by prudent and just Arbitrations again Recommended.

1725.

1725 Former Advice hath by this Meeting been given, with regard to the Honour of God, and His Truth, That the Religious Reputation of Our Society might be preserved from Blame and all just Occasion of Scandal, And which We now again earnestly press & Desire, That all Friends avoid as much as possible, Occasions of Difference One with Another, But if notwithstanding such Care, any Difference shall happen to Arise, that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass whereof any such Shall happen, take timely Care to put an End thereto, by Advising & Exhorting those between whom Difference may happen, to Referr the Matter of their Difference to Impartial & proper Arbitrators, which may be a very likely means to avoid the Scandal of going to Law One with Another; and to Shew forth to the World that We Love One Another, which is a distinguishing Mark of being Christ's Disciples.

1737.

1737 And We do again remind you, That Friends may be every where Careful to get all Differences about Outward things Speedily Composed, either between themselves, or by Arbitrators, without troubling Monthly or Quarterly Meetings with Such Affairs.

And it would be well that Friends were at all times Ready to Submit their Differences, to such Persons not of

Arbitrations

1737 Our Perswasion to Arbitrations, rather than Contend. at Law.

1744.

1744

See Law, page 128,

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Books

25

No. 3 Concerning Books.

1672.

1672
a Committee
to Correct
Books

A Committee of Ten Friends appointed to See that Books be Carefully Corrected; And that none be printed but by Friends Order.

The Printer to give three or more of them Notice when any Book is to be Printed.

That no Old Book be sent to the Counties unsent for.

That no Second Edition be printed without Order.

That the Printer Send those Ordered to the Counties before any be Sent abroad.

1673.

1673

See. 1698.

Agreed. That the Quarterly Meetings return the Printer his Money Once a Quarter, for his further Encouragement and Assistance to Carry on his Business.

1674.

1674

Agreed. That whatever Book is for Sale to be sent out by any Friend in Scotland, and printed there. They shall take off four hundred of each Book toward displaying the Charge of Printing them.

1679.

1679

Books to be delivered to the King and his Counsel, the King's Council, Parliament, and Other Persons, Magistrates and Governours within this Nation, as also in Foreign Parts beyond the Seas, as the Meeting for Sufferings shall from time to time direct. n. 26: 28: 29. and appoint.

n. 26: 28: 29.

n. 28: 1700.

Agreed That the Meeting for Sufferings for the time being, Do for the future take Care to the Inspecting, Ordering and Regulating the Press, and Printing of Books: — And in what ever Matter relating to Printing of Books the Country Friends find themselves aggrieved, that they Write to the Meeting, who are to Address the Same.

1680.

1680

p. 25.

Agreed, That the Matter of Books and Printing & Method of Sending them as well within this Nation as Foreign Parts be wholly Left and Trusted to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1691.

1691

Two of a Sort Quarterly Meeting, as will only amount to Two Books of a Sort to each Monthly Meeting, provided the two Books do not exceed One Shilling in price, and if any One Book be above Six pence price, then but One of that Sort to each Monthly Meeting.

See p. 27.

151 Monthly Meetings.

This Meeting Agrees, for the taking off and Spreading Friends Books for the Service of Truth, That Such a Number of Friends Books, as Shall be hereafter printed by their Appointment (excepting Collections of Books) be taken off by each Monthly Meeting, as will only amount to Two Books of a Sort to each Monthly Meeting, provided the two Books do not exceed One Shilling in price, and if any One Book be above Six pence price, then but One of that Sort to each Monthly Meeting, who may send for as many more as they have Occasion for, or desire. . . . We understand there are about One hundred and Fifty One Monthly Meetings in England and Wales. — And that the Said Books be sent by the Several Correspondents in London, or by their Order, to the Correspondents of each County; who are desired to send up the Money for the Books when Received, to the Friends that are Correspondents in London; And to be diligent in Spreading Friends Books for Truth's Service.

1692.

1692

See 1695.

Agreed, That those that print for Friends, deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings for the Several Correspondents of the Counties in England & Wales, Such a Number of Books as was agreed unto Last Meeting, within One Month after Printed which are Two of a Sort for each Monthly Meeting not exceeding Six pence for Book, and One of a Sort above Six pence per Book.

1092 And it is Advised by the Meeting, That One Book at least of
 Books to be a Sort that shall be printed, except Collections, be kept in Each
 kept in Each Monthly or Quarterly Meeting for the Service of Friends & Truth,
 Quarterly Monthly as there shall be occasion for the future: And this to be
 & Monthly Meetings. Recommended to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.
 Sec. 1095.

1095.

1095 This Meeting Agrees, that it may be Recommended from
 this Meeting to Each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take
 Two of a off Two Books of a Sort Newly Printed, to Each Monthly Meeting
 Sort under under Two Shillings and Six pence, for One Year from this time.
 2/6. One of a Sort above and One to a Meeting that is above, and that they be sent
 to Each Monthly into the Counties Quarterly, about Two Weeks before Each
 Meeting. Quarter Day, by those Printers that Print them: ... And
 Sec. 1097. that One Book of a Sort be kept in Each Quarterly Meeting
 in the Several Counties.

1097.

1097 Friends in the Several Counties in England are desired
 Spreading to be diligent to Spread Friends Books, which are answers to
 Friends Adversaries, and to get them Exposed to publick, where
 Books. Adversaries Books are sold, that the Service of them may be
 answered; And the Printers are to be Spoken to, to Send down
 the Books in due time, and not delay them till the Service
 be partly over.

This Meeting understanding that the Minute of 1095,
 expired in 1096, with respect to Printed Books of high price;
 It is desired that all Books that are writ by Such that are in
 Unity with Friends, that was then Agreed to, be Accepted by
 the Monthly Meetings to which they are Sent. ... And that
 Two of a Each Monthly Meeting for the future So Accept of Two
 Sort not Books of a Sort that Do not Exceed Two Shillings per Book
 sending till this Meeting with Order otherwise.

1098

Books

1698.

1698

This Meeting Advise, That the Booksellers Accounts be Cleared Yearly of such Books they Send, and Friends approve of, And that Each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting give Directions to such Members they make choice of to attend the Yearly Meeting, to see it done; and the Printers to give timely Notice thereof to Each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

1702.

1702

Agreed to Recommend it to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings in the Several Counties, to appoint some judicious Friends to read over such Books that are published in Vindication of Truth, in Order that they may both better understand the Controversies, and be prepared to Vindicate the Doctrine of Friends, and obviate Objections.

1706.

1706

Agreed, That when the Morning Meeting of Ministering Friends do see Cause or Necessity for to dispose of Books in Truths Service Gratis or Cheap, that they acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings therewith, both as to the Quantity and Charge, for their Compliance, before disposed of for that Service.

1709.

1709

Agreed That North Britain be desired to Send up an Account to the Meeting for Sufferings, how many Monthly Meetings they have, And it's proposed, That they take off Two Books of a Sort for each Monthly Meeting.

1710.

1710

This Meeting Desires the Meeting for Sufferings to take Care that the Several Quarterly Meetings in England and

1710 and Wales do take off and pay for all Such Friends Books
 1728. sent pursuant to the Yearly Meeting's repeated Agreement.

1732.

1732 It is Agreed, That the Meeting for Sufferings do distribute
 See 1679 in Such Manner, and to Such parts of the World, as They
 1680 think proper, the Writings of Such Friends as have been
 published by the Consent of the Morning Meeting.

1735.

1735 The Meeting for Sufferings have Invested
 Copies of John Davis, Samuel Arnold, Richard How & Joseph Olive,
 Books. with the Right of Such Copies of Friends Books as now are,
 or shall hereafter be printed for the Use of this Meeting;
 But this Meeting desires that the Meeting for Sufferings do
 take Care that the Said Friends may not have it in their
 Power to possess the said Copies but only in Trust for
 this Meeting.

Boundaries

33

Concerning Boundaries.

1762

~~It is recommended.~~

1762

This Meeting approves of Aquishnet River to be the Boundaries between Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, agreeable to their request.

Certificates.

25

No. 1. Concerning Certificates.

109A.

109A. Desired, That all Friends who Remove from any Part of England or Wales into Ireland, may have Certificates from their Respective Monthly Meetings to which they belong, that They may be informed of what repute they are as to Truth and Friends; And also that no unnecessary and undue Charge be brought upon Friends there.

to have
Certificates
on removing
into Ireland.

Friends Removing from the Compass of One Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to Another, to have Certificates...

See Poor, page, 253, 254, 256, 258, 259, 261.

And See Removals & Settlements. in 1737. page, 307, 308, 310.

Friends that Travel in the Work of the Ministry, to have Certificates. See Preachers. page, 271, 272, 274.

17A5.

17A5

See Preachers, page, 277.

17A8.

17A8

See Marriage, page, —

1772.

1772

The following are adopted as Rules of our Society:
That when public friends have it on their minds to travel out of the Charge of the Quarterly Meeting they belong to, that they acquaint the Elders of their respective Meetings with their concerns, for their advice before they resort to the preparative Meeting in order for a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting, and so when they have it on their minds to travel out of the Charge of the Quarterly Meeting that they proceed in the manner

Certificates

1772. and take a Certificate from the Quarterly Meeting they belong to, concurring with the Monthly Meeting therein.

And that any person coming from one Monthly Meeting to another in order to propose their Intentions of Marriage that they bring a Certificate with them to the first Monthly Meeting from the Monthly Meeting where they belong, signifying their Parents or Guardians consent if they have any, as well as their Conversion and disentanglement with other persons.

No. 5. Concerning Children.

1688.

1688

We do Entreat and Desire You all, our dear Friends, Brethren and Sisters, that are Parents & Governours of Families, That ye diligently lay to Heart your Work & Calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge committed to you, not only in becoming good Examples to the younger Sort, but also to use your Power in your own Families, in the Educating of your Children & Servants in Modesty, Sobriety, and in the Fear of God, Curbing the Extravagant humour in the Young Ones when it doth appear, and not to indulge it and allow of it, For you are set in your Families as Judges for God, and it is you that must give an Account of the Power committed to you: And when you see a Libertine and Wanton Spirit appear in your Children and Servants, that lusteth after the vain Customs and Fashions of the World, either in Dressings Habits or outward Adornings, and craves your Assistance and Allowance, without which it cannot get forward, while they are under your Government; Oh! then Look to yourselves, and Discharge your Trust for God, and for the good of their Souls, exhorting in Meekness and Commanding in Wisdom, that so you may Minister and Teach to the Witless, and help them over their Temptations, in the Authority of God's Power; And when they feel themselves helped & delivered, their Souls will Bless God for you, and you will reap the Comfort of your Labour.

1689.

1689

And Dear Friends, for the Lord's Sake Exercise your Christian Care for the Education of your Children in the Fear of God, and Plainness & Simplicity of Truth both in Language and Habits.

Children

1690.

1690

Not to train
them up in
the Worlds
Ways. &c.
put them
to School
Masters
who are
Friends.

p. 39: A1.

This Meeting Advise, That Friends may be careful not to train up their Children in the Worlds Ways, Names of Days & Months, and Language & Fashions; And that Friends may be careful of Friends Children, to provide School Masters and Mistresses that are Friends, where they are capable, and not to send them to the Worlds Schools, to corrupt them by Learning Heathen Authors, and the Names of their Gods: But to take care that they may train them up in the Language of Truth, and that Plainness which becomes the Truth; And to be good Examples to them, and not to say You to their Child, Nor suffer their Substance to be bestowed on their Children to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our Profession.

To provide
School
Masters &
Mistresses
who are
Friends

p. 39: A1.

And Dear Friends, It is our Christian & Earnest Advice and Counsel to all Friends concerned, so far as they are able or may be capable, to provide School Masters and Mistresses, who are Faithful Friends, to teach and instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the Corrupt Ways, Manners, Fashions & Language of the World, and of the Heathen in their Authors; And Names of the Heathenish Gods & Goddesses, tending greatly to corrupt & alienate the minds of Children into an Averseness or Opposition against the Truth, and the Simplicity of it; But to take care that you train up your Children in the good Nurture, ~~and~~ Admonition and Fear of the Lord, in that Plainness and Language which becomes Truth; And Parents Masters &c. to be good Examples to them in a Sober & Godly Conversation & Plainness of Speech, Not to use the Word You or He to a Child or Servant &c.; Nor suffer your Substance to be bestowed on your Children, to furnish them with such things as tend to

1090 Pride, and to lift them up in Vanity, or affect them with the vain Fashions of the World.

1091.

1091 That Friends be Exemplary to their Children, in Plainness of Language, Habit & Deportment, and train them up therein, that Modesty & Sobriety may be countenanced, and the Fear of the Lord, take place & increase among them. See more in the same printed Epistle. —

See Plainness, page, 239.

1092.

1092 Being sensible how incident Youth is to be corrupted, and how liable to corrupt & hurt One another by evil Example and Liberty; It is earnestly requested, That all Parents among Friends take all Godly & Christian Care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, and not to allow them in any thing that may gratify a vain Mind, in immodest Apparel, or foolish Garbs, or other Extravagancies tending to their Hurt, and the Reproach of our holy Profession, and incurring God's Displeasure & Judgment, which stands against the pride of Life & Haughtiness; But Sincerely to use their best Endeavours to train them up in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, in Sobriety, Modesty, & Plainness of Apparel, Language and Conversation, as becometh our holy Profession and Christian Religion.

1096.

1096 Agreed, That it be recommended to Friends to be very careful in the Education of their Children, and to see that it be as much as possible by honest Friends; that while Children are getting Learning by such that are not Friends, They are often hurt by having such things —
Instilled

Children

1696 instilled, or like Seed dropt into them, that have taken Root to the Hurt of Children, and should therefore be prevented.

We Recommend to You that are Parents, the Plainness to be trained and holy Discipline of the Truth among Your Children, That up in Truths They may be trained up in Truth's Way, and with a Commendable Education according to Your abilities; or That a peculiar People We may be in the Life of Righteousness in Our Generation, diligently improving that good understanding, and those heavenly Gifts, the Lord hath endued You with, and made you Stewards of, to the Honour of Him that hath Called you, and the Good & Comfort One of Another.

1697.

1697 It being under Consideration, how Friends Children might to be put be Disposed of that are Trained up in the Way of Truth, apprentices and set to be put forth Apprentices; It's the Advice and to Friends. Counsel of Friends, that special Care be taken to put them Apprentices to honest Friends, that they may be preserved in the Way of Truth.

1700 1700 & 1701. See Plainness. page 234.
1701 See 1703. in page 50.
1703 1705.

1705 And Parents are again Reminded to Continue their timely to Godly Care, and Exercise their just and due Authority & to restrain Command over their Children, timely to Restrain them from p. 39. 50. the Worlds Corruptions & Extravagances, both in Habit and 51. 58 Language, Behaviour & Conversation, that they may keep the Way of the Lord, and Walk uprightly therein.

1706.

1706 Advised, To keep Children out of the vain & foolish Fashions and Ways of the World, and in Plainness of Language, Habit & Behaviour.

1709.

Children

13

1709.

1709.
Heads of
Families
& Elders to
watch over
the youth.
p. 51.
to be dealt
with.

Advised, That all Heads of Families, and especially Such who are Elders in the Church of Christ, be all diligent & careful to watch over the young Generation, that Sobriety, Plainness & Virtue may be encouraged and promoted, and Exemplarily recommended by you to them; That the Liberty too many of Our youth take in following the Fashions & Customs of the World, which tend to the Dishonour and Reproach of the Testimony of the Blessed Truth, may be discouraged, and Such as are found in the Same, Dealt with in the Fear, Wisdom & Love of God, that they may be won, and brought into humility and Subjection to the Lord, and his Truth; ———
There in the Same Epistle. — See Plainness, page, 250.

1710.

1710
Caution
against
degeneracy

The Lord knows, We would not have any of our dear Friends Children, who are Natural Branches of a good Stock, Degenerate from that good Seed and tender plant that He has sown & Planted in them, nor Corrupted from Truth's Simplicity or Innocency, by the Society or ill Examples of any Other Children; which Friends who are Parents should take timely Care to prevent

1715.

1715
Parents
to watch
over
Children
& Labour
with them.

That Our Children may be preserved from the Wiles of Satan, as much as in us lies, Let a Godly Care & Concern be to watch upon the Minds of all Parents to watch over them, with Supplications to the Lord, that they may not be drawn away from the Innocency, Simplicity & Plainness of the Way of Truth; and Labour in a Sense of Truth to teach the Witnefs in them, that they may feel in their Own Spirits a Degree of Fear & Reverence towards God, and Instruct them to follow His Counsel, and Obey his Voyce, As the Tribes of Israel were required.

Children.

1715 required of God, to teach his precepts diligently unto
 p. 27. " their Children. Deut. 6. v. 7. And thou shalt teach them—
 " diligently unto thy Children, and shall talk of them when
 " thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the
 " way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up—
 So be you concerned to acquaint them, how the Lord Led
 You from One degree of Faithfulness, to another, in a Denial
 of the World's Corrupt Ways, Language & Customs; which
 while We in disobedience to Him walked in, We could
 not Enjoy true Peace; But as We bore the Cross and bowed
 to his Will, We had an Evidence of Acceptance with Him:
 And be Careful that none of you by a Neglect herein, be-
 come Examples unto them to Depart from the Scripture
 Language, wherein is true propriety of Speech.

1717.

1717 As touching the Education of Friends Children, for which
 this Meeting hath often found a Concern, We think it Our
 duty to Recommend unto you the Necessity that there is of
 a Care in preserving them in Plainness of Speech & Habit,
 Suitable to Our holy Profession, And also that no Opportunity
 be Omitted, nor any Endeavours wanting to Instruct them
 in the Principle of Truth which We profess, that thereby
 they being sensible of the Operation thereof in themselves,
 may find, not only their Spirits Softned & tendered, fit to
 receive the Impressions of the Divine Image, but may also
 from thence find themselves under a Necessity to appear clear
 in the several Branches of Our Christian Testimony, And
 as this will be most beneficial to them, being the Fruits
 of Conviction, So it is the most Effectual Way of propaga-
 ting the Same, throughout the Churches of Christ: And there
 being Times and Seasons wherein their Spirits are more
 than

Children

A5

1717 than at Others disposed to have those things impressed upon them, so We desire that all Parents and Others concerned in the Oversight of Youth, might wait in the Fear of God to know themselves divinely Qualified for that Service, that in his Wisdom they may make use of every Such Opportunity which the Lord shall put into their hands, and We hereby Warn and Advise Friends in all places, to shun every Appearance of Evil, and keep Out of Pride, and following the vain Fashions & Customs of the World, as Recommended in the Epistle, 1715.

1723.

1723 *what Books* Advised & Exhorted, That all Parents, Masters and Mistresses of Families, and Guardians of Minors, that They &c. to be prevented, as much as in them lies, their Children, Servants, and Youth under their respective Care & Tuition from the having or reading Books or Papers, that have any tendency to prejudice the Profession of the Christian Religion, to create in them the least Doubt or Question concerning the Truth of the Holy Scriptures, Or those necessary and Saving Truths declared in them, Lest their Infant & Feeble Minds should be poisoned thereby, and a Foundation laid for the greatest Evils.

1724.

1724 The Circumstances of Our Youth having been again under Our Consideration, We judge it necessary to observe, That the undue Liberty too many of them take, both in their Conversation One with Another, as well as with those not of Our Perswasion, hath been Cause of grief to know & hear; Wherefore We tenderly recommend to all Parents, and Such as may have Care of Children, that they do as far as in them lies, carefully Inspect and narrowly Enquire into the Manner of their Conversation, that where Counsel or Reproof may be wanting, it may in the Spirit of Love, and in Sound Judgment be given.

1725

1725.

1725

To Labour
for an
Inheritance
in y^e Truth
rather than
in the
world.

p. 29.

1 Tim^o 6: 17.

And you who are Parents of Children, Labour fervently in the Spirit, with Secret Supplications unto the Lord, that He may give them an Inheritance in the Truth, wherein they may be Enabled to Stand up in their Generation after you, to his praise & Glory, rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World, which has proved a Snare and Temptation to Some to Shun the Cross, and Embrace the Glory of this present World; But that those to whom God hath given Riches, may take the Apostles Advice; That They be not high minded, but Fear, and Trust not in uncertain Riches, but therewith ^{be} Rich in good Works, willing to Communicate, ready to Distribute. And therein be good Example to their Children.

1729.

1729

Company

It ought to be the great Care & Concern of Parents, as they Value the Welfare of their Children and Prosperity, and Others who have Youth under their Care, that They Endeavour by their Example, as well as Precept, to keep them from bad Company, for many have found by sad Experience, the Truth of that Saying of the Apostle, *evil Communication* doth corrupt good Manners. And See Scriptures, page 239.

1731.

1731

Advice to
Parents &
Guardians
concerning
Education.

In as much as we have a Large Body of Youth growing up, the Offspring of Friends, these Call for Our special Care & Concern, that They may be preserved in the Way of Truth, in which Our forefathers walked; And in Order thereto, We tenderly recommend to all Parents and Guardians, first that They take heed to themselves, that their Own Spirits be highly Seasoned & directed for the help and good Government of their Children, and then that they have a constant, watchful Eye in Love over them for their Good, and keep them as much as possible within their Notice & Observation, for this We are sensible

1731

sensible of, that the Miscarriages of Youth have very much proceeded from their being imprudently Indulged, or left to themselves, by which means they become Exposed to the Danger of Evil Example on the one hand, and vicious Corrupt Principles on the other, with which the World too much abounds; And therefore We earnestly & tenderly advise all Parents & Guardians, to be watchfully Concerned in this respect, And that They take all proper Occasions, both by Example & Instruction to help their Children; And that Mothers of Children, as well as Fathers, as they have frequently the best Opportunities, would take particular Care to Instruct them in the Knowledge of Religion, and the holy Scriptures, because it has been found by Experience, that good Impressions early made on the tender Minds of Children, have proved lasting Means, preserving them in a religious Life & Conversation: This Practice was enjoined strongly upon the People of Israel by Moses and Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who required them to read or repeat the Law to their Children: . . . And the Apostle Paul takes Notice of Timothy's being well Instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child, and of the unfeigned Faith which dwelt in his Grandmother Lois, and his Mother Eunice: 2 Tim. 1: 5. Who no doubt had a religious Care of his Education.

Monthly
Meetings
to stir up
parents to
this duty.

But when Parents or Guardians are deficient in such their Care, We recommend Monthly Meetings, that they stir them up thereto, either by visiting them in their Families, or in such manner, as in the Wisdom of God they may see meet, that so the Doctrines of the Gospel, and a ——— Conversation agreeable thereunto may be Maintained unto all Generations.

1732.

See Scriptures, page, 320

1733

Children

1733

1733. See Scriptures, page, 321.

1734

1734. See the Same, page, 321.

1735

1735. See Plainness, page, 222.

and See Scriptures, page, 322

1736.

1736

Train them
up in the
way of the
Cross. . .
not to
Indulge
but restrain
them.
p. 39.

And, Dear Friends, You who have Children under your Care or Tuition, We beseech you to accustom them early to the Reading of the holy Scriptures, and to train them up in the Way of the Cross, as soon as they are capable of receiving Impressions of good and evil: That Parents be careful how they Indulge them in any thing that has an evil tendency, Endeavouring to restrain them from every thing, which their Natural Inclinations may Lead them to desire after; This We think, is the indispensable Duty of all Parents, and we cannot see how they can answer the Commission of it in the Sight of God; For such a neglect too often occasions ill Habits, which afterwards are not to be restrained without great Difficulty, if at all. —

Youth
intreated
to Receive
Admonition

We also earnestly Entreat Our Young Friends, with all readiness of Mind to Receive, and give place to the Labour of Love and wholesome Admonitions bestowed upon them by their Parents & Others for their benefit & Instruction, And, — carefully to avoid all evil Company, which corrupts good Manners, and Leads into Disorders and Extravagancies; —

And that the Endeavours of Parents may be Crowned with Success, It becometh them to Enforce their Advice by a suitable Practice, and an Exemplary walking in all Holiness and Godliness of Conversation.

1737.

1737

And, Dear Friends, It has been the Concern of this Our Annual Meeting, from the Relation & hopes given us of Truths Spreading in Foreign Countries, that Friends who

1737 are of Abilities, and have the Prosperity of Truth at Heart, would in the Education of their Children, take Care as suitable to be instructed in some Modern Language. Opportunities & Occasions may Offer, to let them be Instructed in Some Modern Tongue, as French, High & Low Dutch, Danish, &c. — that so when they are growing up. They themselves if Traders to foreign Countries may reap the benefit thereof, and as it shall please the Lord to dispose & incline them, may be of Service to the Church.
See Families, page 126.

1751.

1751 It hath been Matter of Affliction to this Meeting, to understand by the Accounts received from divers Counties, that notwithstanding the Repeated Exhortations, and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting to Parents & Others concerned for Youth, and that ought to be properly engaged for their due Education, and the forming their tender Minds, to the Exercise of Piety & Religion, yet too great a Deficiency appears in that important Duty: Under a pressing Concern of Mind for the Revival of so necessary a Care, early enjoined the Chosen People of God; i.e. the Israelites, and the Concern of the Faithful in every Age; We Communicate this additional Counsel, and Intreat them to Consider, that there ought to be proper Limitations assigned to their Anxiety after this World, and an hearty Engagement to seek primarily after that Blessing that makes truly Rich, and brings no Sorrow with it; The Neglect of this weighty Obligation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in many Places; The Love of Religion being lost by the Parents, they have been disabled from Instructing their Children, and the most excellent Part of that dear Relation has been entirely lost; Their Minds bent to the World, and devoted to its pursuits, has centered them in the acquisition of earthly Possessions, as their principle and only Good; And a jealous

Righteous.

1751 Righteous God has often punished such in themselves or -
 Offspring as He did the people of old, Haggai: 1. ... Ye.
 " Looked for much and so it came to little, and when ye
 " brought it home, I did blow upon it, why? saith the
 " Lord of Hosts; — Because of mine house that is wast,
 " and ye have every Man into his own House.

There is great reason to hope a Blessing would attend
 the honest Endeavours of Parents, that the Minds of Youth
 thus Seasoned, they might be rendered useful in our Lion,
 and be brought up in Service according to the Will of God.

And, Dearly Beloved Youth, in an humble Sense of
 the Continued Visitations of the Father's Love, and Experience
 of their Blessed Effects, We intreat you by the Mercies of
 God, receive its holy Impressions, Submit to its Discipline,
 This will preserve you from the deplorable Effect of Satan's
 Transformations, Inspire you with holy Resolutions, and
 Support to Maintain them, in all Godly Conversation, and
 purity of Faith & Life; adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel
 by a blameless demeanour; True Peace will thus flow as
 a River in your own Minds, and the Fruits of the Tree of
 Righteousness brought forth to your inexpressible Consola-
 tion in Christ, the Revival of Lions Beauty, the Rebidding
 her Desolations, that by and through you She may yet
 appear Beautiful to the Sincere hearted, but to her
 Enemies terrible as an Army with Banners.

1703.

1703 Advised, That all Parents be watchful over their
 Children, and Careful not to Suffer them to get up into Wine
 and Excess, but to keep them to that strict Plainness
 which becomes the people of God, That the Sin of the Children
 may not lie upon the Parents, nor they be exposed to him
 by the Parents Neglect.

This is omitted
in the proper
place

And

703

up to
ful
24m.

And that Friends of all degrees take due care to breed
up their Children in some useful & Necessary Employments,
so that they may not spend their precious Time in Idleness,
which is of evil Example, and tends much to their hurt.

Conversation.

59

No. 6. Concerning Conversation.

1675.

1675 It is much upon us to put Friends in Remembrance, to keep the Antient Testimonies of Truth bogat in Our hearts in the Beginning against the Spirit of this World, for which many have Suffered cruel Mockings, Beatings, Stonings &c, particularly as to the Corrupt Fashions, Dealings & Language of the World, their Over-reaching & vain jestings, that the Cross of Christ in all things may be kept to, which preserves Friends blameless, and honours the Lord's Name and Truth in the Earth.

1676.

1676 See Lovetousness, page, 85.

1688.

1688 Advised, That Friends every where be put in mind to keep under the Leadings & Guidance of the Spirit of Truth, in their Outward Habits & Fashions thereof, not Suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them, in a Lust to be like unto them in things useles and Superfluous, Lest it prevail upon them by giving a little way to it, till it Lead them from the ~~to~~ Simplicity and plainness that becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain Liberty to another, till they come to Lose the blessed Liberty that is in Christ, into which they were in Measure Redeemed, and fall back into the Bondage of the World's Spirit, and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh with the Lust and Concupiscence thereof, and so Lose both their Name & Place in the Truth, as too many have Done.

1691.

1691 Advised in God's holy Fear to watch against, and keep out the Spirit and Corrupt Friendship of the World, and that no Fellowship may be held or had with the unfruitful Works of

Conversation

1691 of Darkness, nor therein with the Workers thereof.

And to avoid unnecessary frequenting Taverns, Ale-
houses, all Looseness, Excess, and unprofitable and Idle
Discourses, Mispending their precious Time & Substance, to
the dishonour of Truth, and Scandal of Our holy Profession.

And See Plainness, page 239.

1712.

1712

See Plainness, page 241.

1725.

1725

Watch over
our own
Spirits

Let us watch diligently over our own Spirits; to See
that We are conformable to the Spirit of Truth, whereby Our
Behaviour & Conversation may be such as becomes Godliness
and may adorn the Doctrine of Christ Jesus our Lord,
who mercifully hath called us, to be a People faithful
in bearing the Cross and despising the Shame, & cheerfully
bearing Our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian
Religion, which He hath Revealed, and against every
Appearance of Antichrist and Wickedness.

1731.

1731

Caution to
be careful
of their
Conversation
at Inns.
&c.

It is the Care and Concern of this Meeting to recommend
unto all Friends resorting to any of Our Annual Assemblies,
either in this City or Elsewhere, to be very careful at their
Inns, or Other Places where they may Lodge or converse,
to be prudent in all manner of Behaviour, both in Publick,
& Private, Avoiding all Intemperance in Eating & Drinking,
and likewise any foolish jesting, or undue Liberty what-
soever, That Our Conversations Seasoned with the Fear of
God, may appear correspondent to Our Profession, and
Answer the Witness of God in Others: And We exhort the
Quarterly Meetings in those Counties where such
Meetings are held; take Special Care in this Respect.

With

Conversation

61

1731

be careful
that no
humbling
block be
laid in the
way of
enquirers
&

With regard to that Openness and good Disposition which appears in the Minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, and some Convincement in divers Places, We earnestly Advise Friends, That They be careful of their Conduct at all Times, and on all Occasions, That no Stumbling Block be laid in the Way of honest Enquirers, nor Offence given to tender Young Convinced Friends: Let your Light so shine before Men that they may see your good Works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven: "Let us walk wisely towards those that are without, as well as those within, Let Our Moderation and Prudence, as well as Truth & Justice appear to all Men, and in all things, in Trading & Commerce, in Speech & Communication, in Eating & Drinking, in Habit & Furniture, and thro' all in a meek, lowly, quiet Spirit; That as We profess to be a Spiritual minded People, We may appear to be Such, as being bounded by the Cross of Christ, shew forth the Power of that divine principle We make Profession of, by a Conversation every way agreeable therunto."

173A.

173A

to avoid
light & vain
company.

And Seeing it is very evident, that evil Communications corrupt good manners, We think proper to Recommend with much Affection to Our Young Friends, that they be very careful to avoid all such Company, as by a Light and vain ^{would tend} Conversation, to alienate their Minds from the Love of Virtue and Sobriety, for "The Discourse of Fools is trifling, and their Sport is in the Wantonness of Sin, Ecclesiast. 27, 13." If (therefore) Thou be among the Indiscreet, Observe the time, tarry not there, but be continually among Men of understanding. Ver. 12. —

And See Scriptures, page, 3A1.

1736

Conversation.

1736.

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Tho' the Accounts We have Received from some Places in this and other Countries, of the Prosperity of Truth, and of the coming forth of some among us, in a publick Testimony thereunto, have been very acceptable unto us; Yet it is with much

Declension
Observed

Grief & Concern that We Observe in some a Declension from the Way of Righteousness & Truth, as well as from the Plainness of Habit; and Simplicity of Speech & Behaviour, which were so conspicuous in our early Friends, and many of their Offspring: This Declension, We apprehend, arises from a disregard to the divine Light & Truth they have often been recommended to, as the Regulator of their Words & Actions.

and from
whence it
arises.

by what the
holy obtained
a good
Report in
all Ages.

By a careful conscientious Regard to this, the holy Men in all Ages obtained ^{a good Report}, and our Ancestors and many of their immediate Offspring were comely in the Eyes of the Nation, for their solid Deportment, and Religious Regard to their Words and Actions; A Godly Fear rested upon their Minds, that the precious Truth and Principles which they professed, and felt the blessed Effects of, might not suffer Reproach, from their Misconduct: The like holy Concern now would tend to Regulate our Youth, and render them more comely in the Eyes of beholders, than any external Ornaments or Deckings of the Body whatsoever; This would instruct them to avoid all Pride & Affectation, and Endue them with Humility; Modesty and Virtue, which recommends to the Favour of God, and a good Esteem among Men: A Religious Regard to the Principles of Light & Truth, Gods Witness in the Mind & Heart of Man, ever produces the most beneficial Effects, as well to Society in general as to every One in particular; This would introduce Universal Love, Peace & Concord among Mankind; This would

1736 would Sweeten the bitter Spirit, Mollify & assuage the fierce & violent dispositions of Men, Mutually Endear Relations, & Friends, and bring all into the Unity and Fellowship of the holy Spirit; The Fruits whereof, the Apostle declareth are Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Brotherly kindness & Charity. We do therefore most earnestly recommend a Strict Attention to this holy & divine Principle to Friends every where, and in a particular manner to the Youth of the present Generation.

And, Dear Friends, in order that as we have received Christ, so we may walk in Him, in all Holiness & Godliness of Conversation, we earnestly exhort that ye hold fast the Profession of the Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ without wavering, both in respect to His outward Coming in the Flesh, His Sufferings, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Mediation and Intercession at the Right hand of the Father; And to the Inward Manifestation of his Grace and holy Spirit in Our hearts, powerfully working in the Soul of Man, to the Subduing every evil Affection & Lust, and to the purifying of Our Consciences from dead Works to serve the living God; And that thro' the Virtue & Efficacy of this Most holy Faith, ye may become strong in the Lord, and in the power of His Might, which will enable you to Worship God in Spirit with Acceptance, and preserve you in a lively frame of mind, from a Drowsy & Lethargic Spirit, which in all Our religious Assemblies ought to be guarded against with the utmost Care & Circumspection: In this lively Faith and pure Life of Christ, you will have Victory over the World; over your desires after the grandeur and perishing things thereof, and over all corrupt Customs & Fashions which are contrary to the Purity of the Gospel, and Our Ancient Christian Testimony.

Conversation

1737.

1737 For the Sake of tender & Young Convinced Friends, an earnest Concern is on the Minds of many, That no Occasion-
 the like in of Stumbling or Offence be laid in their Way; but that all
 1731. p. 61. Such as have made tender profession of the Way of Truth,
 may be careful to walk before them in all Holiness and
 uprightness of Conversation, and in an humble waiting
 upon the Lord, that their Example may tend to the Encou-
 ragement & Strengthening of those who have been more
 lately Visited, to a Steady & Constant perseverance in the
 Path which the Lord hath directed their feet into.

And, Dear Friends, tis with much Sorrow and Grief of
 See p. 59: heart, We have still Occasion to Remind You of the Advice
 61: 62. so lately delivered in Our Yearly Epistles, namely, to keep
 & under plainness out of the Extravagant Fashions & Customs of the World,
 p. 239. to And not to Launch farther into Trade & Business than You
 245. are Capable of Managing & Carrying on with Reputation,
 & under Credit among Men, and without prejudice, Loss or Detri-
 ments to Any. We are fully persuaded, that if Friends
 every where had a due Respect & Regard to this Our Precept
 of Christ, Viz^t. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and
 his Righteousness; which is the indispensable Duty
 of all his Followers to observe, We should have little or no
 Occasion for the Repetition of Such Advice: Let therefore,
 We earnestly beseech You, that Precept of Our Blessed
 Lord and Master, and Holy Head, be duly Considered, and
 put in Practice; that by Ordering our Conversations agree-
 able to our profession, We may shew forth the praise of
 Him that hath Called us; So shall We witness the promise to
 be fulfilled, them that Honour Me, saith the Lord, I will Honour.

1738.

1738 And soasmuch as We are Called with a high & holy
 calling.

Conversation.

65

1738 *Against Vain
ishions
or plays
&c.
be
mperati
&* Calling, to all Holiness & Purity of Conversation, Let your Behaviour among Men be unblamable, and Such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ; Let not the Vain & Foolish Fashions of the World prevail over you; — Avoid Sports, Plays, and all such Diversions, as tending to alienate the Mind from God, and to deprive the Soul of his comfortable Presence & Power: Be Temperate and Sober; Shun all Excess in Eating & Drinking; Let Such of you as Deal in Spirituous Liquors, be careful to Limit your Trade within the Bounds prescribed by the Law of the Land; Beware lest any of you Suffer as an evil Doer. 1 Pet. 2: 12.

1739.

1739 The Advice in 1738 renewed, and earnestly beseech Our Friends, and the Youth especially, to avoid all such Conversation as tend to Draw out their Minds into the Foolish & Wicked Pastimes with which this Age abounds, particularly, Balls, Gaming Places, Horse Races, and Playhouses those Nurseries of Debauchery & Wickedness, the Burthen & Grief of the Sober part of Other Societies, as well as of Our own, Practices wholly unbecoming a People — under the Christian Profession &c. See the Printed Epistle.

1733.

1733

See Plainness, page, 286.

Correspondents

75

N^o. 7. Concerning Correspondents.

1682.

1082. Agreed, That the Persons to be Corresponded with here,
be from time to time agreed and Directed by the Meeting
for Sufferings in London.

1693.

1093. Agreed, That Each Quarterly Meeting take Care to Advise
Friends to the Correspondents for the Counties, and any Others concerned,
to write only to the Correspondents in London, about their
Sufferings, and not to Other Persons, lest their Suffering Case
be delayed.

1701.

1701. This Meeting desires the City Correspondents, do write
to the Several Places beyond Sea, at least Once a Year.

1702.

1702. Agreed, after a Serious Consideration, That None are
who are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings, But Publick
Friends; and Such as are appointed by the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties, and Other Countries that
Correspond with this Meeting in all Places, and are
Entered as Such in the Correspond Book.

1703.

1703. After a Consideration about the Correspondents in
London, it was Agreed by this Meeting, That it was of
Right for the Deputies of the Counties to Denish or
Add to their Correspondents, as they See meet.

1709.

1709. It is Agreed, That in the Epistle to Foreign Parts
Friends be acquainted of Such Friends as are Named here
for them to Correspond with upon the Affairs of Truth; and
to

Correspondents.

1709
for Foreign
Parts.
See. 1730.
p. 77.

to Inform them how they may direct to them, if the Friends there approve of them, otherwise that they advise this Meeting who they would have for their Correspondents ~~for~~ here, and that they let Friends here know to whom and where they shall direct to them there.

1713.

1713

Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to Enquire whether the Epistles be duly Sent by the Correspondents to foreign Plantations.

1717.

1717

No Place to
have more
than four.

Agreed, That the London Correspondents be No More than Four for any One County or Place for the future: And that where the Number at present Exceeds Four, as soon as any of them decline, or Die, and they are reduced to Four, the Number in those places also shall be kept to a Number not exceeding Four.

1720.

1720

to give
attendance.

The Meeting for Sufferings is Desired to Call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of their Attendance therein: And that if notwithstanding being so called upon, any Members shall Neglect or Refuse to give their Assistance on all Necessary Occasions, the said Meeting is desired to Acquaint therewith the County for whom Such Friends neglecting to Serve are appointed, that they may Name or appoint Some Other Friend who can or will Attend the Service on all necessary Occasions.

1725.

1725

Quarterly
Meetings to
appoint
Correspondents

Agreed, That the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be directed, expressly to give Instructions to their Deputies, who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall Nominate in the City, in the Room of any Friend deceased or removed, or else expressly leave them to their Liberty of Choice &c.

And

Correspondents

77

1725 And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some
 meetings for Seasonable time, after the Death of any of their Members, Do
 sufferings give Notice to the County or Counties for whom the said
 to give Notice of the Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such
 death of any directions, the next Yearly Meeting.

1730 This Meeting had under their Consideration, a Proposition
 persons - made relating to Persons Employed as Correspondents, Some
 not to be of whom have failed in the Payment of their just Debts; 'Tis
 respon^d deemed that no Person under such Circumstance is fit to be
 Employed in that Station, till He hath given the Monthly Meeting
 he belongs to Satisfaction; And therefore hereby recommends
 it to the Meeting for Sufferings, That for the future they take
 Special Care, where any such failure has or may happen,
 that they duly apprise the Counties thereof for which they
 stand Correspondents, in order that a New Choice may be
 made to Supply this Place.

A Copy of this Minute to be Sent down to the Several
 Counties, for Friends there also to Act agreeable hereto with
 respect to Correspondents in the Country likewise.

Writing to Foreign Parts. This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings
 to take due Care to See that the Correspondents for foreign
 Countries answer the Several Epistles received from thence;
 And also Write to the Several distant Places in the World
 1748. 1750. where withall this Meeting heretofore corresponded, where
 1755. 1760. any Friends are, Notwithstanding at any time this
 Meeting may not have any Account from thence either by
 Epistle or Otherwise; And that all such answers allowed,
 be Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings in behalf of this
 Yearly Meeting.

1730

1734

attendance
required.

See 1730.

1736.

1737.

1734.

It being taken notice of in this Meeting, that some Friends of the City whose Names stand in the Correspondents Book, do very seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings; This Meeting are of Opinion, that ~~all~~ Such who do not attend the said Meeting, at least Once in a Quarter of a Year, should be discharged by this Meeting, unless some sufficient Reason should be tendered.

1735.

1735

A Minute of the Like purport.

1736.

1736

Attendance

See 1737.

The Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings having laid before this Meeting, a Minute respecting some difficulties in putting in practice the Advice of this Meeting in the Years 1734, & 1735; Relating to the Attendance of the Members of that Meeting in the Service thereof; And this Meeting taking the same into their Consideration, approves what the said Meeting have done:— And do Agree, that ~~now~~ instead of being obliged to attend Once a Quarter, all such Members to attend at least Six times a Year.

1737.

1737

In reviewing the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings respecting the attendance of its Members, We find that a considerable deficiency appears in attending the same. And for several years past they have been earnestly requested to do so. — This Meeting being desirous they may come up in their Service, request their care and diligence for the future: And do Agree, that ~~all~~ such that do not attend at least Six times in the Year, pursuant to the direction of a Minute of the last yearly Meeting, shall be Struck Out of the Correspondents Book, unless they give sufficient Reasons to the contrary.

1738

1753.

1753

See Representatives, page, 323.

1757.

1757

This Meeting having considered the Nature & Importance of the Affairs transacted. By the Meeting for Sufferings, and the continued necessity there is that they should be managed by Grave and weighty Friends, Such as are themselves Men of clean hands, and Adorning the Doctrine. They profess in their Lives & Conversations: It is become the earnest Desire of this Meeting, that for the future, Friends every where. will be Particularly Careful in their Choice of Such who are to act as Correspondents either in the City or Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services; And that Such only may be Nominated, who are faithful in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Lilies, Bearing Arms, and Swearing. And who are also Exemplary in their Conduct and Conversation amongst Men, and coming up in that Plainness of Speech, Behaviour and Apparel, which highly becomes those in an especial manner, who are concerned in managing the Affairs of the Church.

Covetousness

85

No 8. Concerning Covetousness.

1670.

1670 And None Strive nor Covet to be Rich in this World in these
Not Covet changeable things that will pass away, but your Faith to Stand
to be Rich in the Lord God, who Changes not, that Created all and gives
the Increase of all.

1697.

1697 We do in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Warn & Charge all
beware of that profess the Truth among us, to take heed & beware of Covetous-
Covetousness; ness, Over-reaching, Oppression & Defrauding of any, from whence
Strife, Contention & Law Suits do often arise, And if any Difference
about these things do happen among you, to Stop & Suppress it.

1699.

1699 Let all Friends be Exhorted to abide under the daily Cross
abide under whereby the Earthly Minded may be Crucified, which hath its
the Daily delight & Ease in Vanities, Pride & Covetousness &c. that Friends
being preserved out of these things wherein the Enemy hath
had and has his Kingdom, and too plainly lays his Snares
to hinder their holy Progress, may every where be more &
more a Relined, Serious, Plain & Selfdenying People, growing
in the Grace & Knowledge of God and Our Lord Jesus Christ;
and exalting his Spiritual Kingdom in their Souls.

1720.

1720 As Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Exhorted & Warned
beware of so beware & take heed of Covetousness, which is Idolatry;
Covetousness We are concerned that all professing Christianity among us,
any take heed of Pride, Covetousness, and hastening to be
rich in the World, which are pernicious & growing evils,
let them be watched against, resisted & Suppressed in the
Fear

Covetousness

1720 Fear and Dread of Almighty God, and have no place or countenance in his Camp. — O Ye grave Elders both Men and Women, pray be careful & Watchful against these Evils, and over the Youth in these Cases.

1721.

1721 The last Years Caution Repeated.

1725.

1725 See Children, page, 116.

Days in

91

No 9. Concerning Days.

1690.

1690

See Children, page, 20.

1691.

1691

Advised, That Friends keep to their wanted Example and Testimony against the Superstitious Observation of Days.

1697.

1697

That all Friends keep to the Simplicity of Truth, in calling the Months and Days by Scripture Names, and not by Heathen.

1715.

1715

See Plainness, page, 222.

Defamation

95

No. 10. Concerning Defamation.

1718.

1718

It is the Advice of this Meeting, That any Person charged with Defamation or Scandal, ought to be proceeded against in the Manner, and by the several Steps following.

The
Defamed
to deal
privately
with the
Defamer

First. The Person defamed or supposed to be defamed, in his own Person, or any other to whom the Knowledge of the Case shall come, to go to the Accused, and tell him his Fault, or supposed fault, between them alone, and by the best Method he is capable of, to Labour to convince him of it, in order to his acknowledgment of the Truth, and Repentance if he appears to be guilty; But if the Accused shall appear, either thro Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro Willfulness not to yield to it, Or being convinced, shall refuse to make such Satisfaction as the Nature of the Case requires, (that being the Consequence

afterwards
to take
one or two
more,
&
the accused
may bring
one or two
also.

of true Repentance.) In such Case, the Accuser to take with him One or Two more, of the Monthly Meeting the Accused, belongs to, if it may conveniently be done, And if the Accused thinks fit, he may bring with him One or Two Friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting if it may be conveniently done; And They together in the Wisdom of God, to endeavour the true Knowledge of the Case, by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion; And if they all shall judge him Guilty, and he doth not make Satisfaction; Or if they do not all Agree that he is Innocent, in either of these Cases happening, the Person Charging hath Liberty to bring the Matter before the Church, who are the only Judges now remaining, both of the Nature of the Fact, & the Validity of the Proof of it: And they in the Wisdom of God, which we hope will not be wanting to his Church, as they humbly wait

Defamation

1718 wait on ~~him~~ him for it, to Deal with him for the good Ends before Mentioned, And as they See Cause, upon a Mature & Deliberate Consideration to Justify or Condemn him. — And if the Church shall See meet to Commit the Consideration of a Case of this Nature, for better dispatch, to certain Persons of their own Body; We recommend it as our tender advice, That in Case the accused shall Object against One or more of the Friends so Chosen, that the Church have a due Regard to Such Objection, and lay aside the Person or Persons so Objected against, and Substitute another or others in his or their Room, provided such Objection doth not extend to the Major Part of the Friends so Chosen: And in general We desire all Tendernefs & Regard may be had to a Person under such Circumstances, And that Friends in a Spirit of Love & Concurrence, should be ready to make him as easy as they can, provided they keep up the Authority of their Meetings.

if a Case be
Committed.
Regard is to
be had to the
objections of
the accused.

Nameless Books and Pamphlets reflecting darkly on Friends, are Testified against, And it is desired, That No Such Books be Written, Printed, Published, or privately handed about, by any under our Profession for the time to come.

See Talebearing & Backbiting, page 381. 382.

Discipline

101

N^o. 11. Concerning Discipline.

1075.

1075 *Advised, That the Churches Testimonies and Judgment against Disorderly & Scandalous Walkers, as also the Repentance & Restoration of the Parties restored, be recorded in a Distinct Book, in the respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, for the clearing of Truth, Friends and our holy Profession; to be produced and published by Friends for that End & purpose; So far only as in God's heavenly Wisdom they shall see needful.*

And it is also our Advice in the Love of God, That after any Friends Repentance & Restoration, He abiding faithful in the Truth that condemns the Evil, None among you to remember his Transgression as to cast it at him, or upbraid him with it; For that is not according to the Mercies of God.

1095.

1095 *If there be any such Gross Errors, false Doctrines or Mistakes, held by any professing Truth [in America] as are either against the Validity of Christ's Sufferings, Blood, Resurrection, Ascension, or Glory in the Heavens, according as they are set forth in the Scriptures; Or any ways tending to the Denial of the heavenly Man Christ; Such Persons ought to be diligently Instructed and Admonished by faithful Friends [in those parts,] and not to be Exposed by any to publick Reproach: And where the Error proceeds from Ignorance and Darkness of their understanding, they ought the more meekly & gently to be informed; But if any shall wilfully persist in Error in point of Faith, after duly informed; Then Such to be further Dealt with, according to Gospel Order, that the Truth Church, or Body of Christ may not suffer by any particular pretended Member that is so Corrupt.*

1098

Discipline

1098.

1098 Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Friends to be Truth is concerned, Faithful Friends of the respective Monthly Meetings be appointed to see how well those things be Observed, and tenderly to Admonish Such in Brotherly Love that shall decline the Same.

1701.

1701 If any Weakness, Shortness, Failure, or unfaithfulness appear in any professing the Same Truth with us, We hope faithful Friends and Brethren will continue their Christian Care for their Help, Instruction and Admonition, in the Love and Power of the Lord, as in his Wisdom — they shall see cause, still aiming at their good, their Inward peace of Conscience, and Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703.

1703 Recommended unto faithful Friends and Elders especially, to watch over the Flock of Christ in their respective Places, the Flock. That they faithfully and diligently walk up to the Testimony of the Blessed Truth, to which the Lord hath gathered us in this latter Age of the World; That so where any are the Faulty to sound Short, Weak or Faulty, they may be Admonished. & be Admonished. Sought in the Spirit of Love, which is that of the Gospel, that Divine Charity that Draws as with the Rords of a Man, wherein Mercy is not only Mixt with Judgment, but may appear over all Our Works, That so it may be seen to all, that Church Love abounds before Church Censure comes, and that a Gospel Spirit is the Spring and Motive to all our performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

1708.

1708 For as much as Some Persons, who by their ill Conduct have justly deserved, and come under the Censure of the Meetings to which they belong, have sought to get
from

1708 from under the weight of that Judgment by Signing a
 ch who Paper of Condemnation, and thereby suppose themselves
 discharged: 'Tis therefore Recommended to Friends Consider-
 ation, that they be Careful not to admit Such Persons too
 early into Fellowship, or give them Cause to think they
 are Accepted, before the Meeting or Meetings are Satisfied
 in their Repentance and Amendment, notwithstanding Such
 paper be given.

1718.

1718

See Defamation, page, 93, 94.

1734.

1734

We earnestly exhort all Friends and Brethren, That under
 a living Concern of Spirit for the Honour of God, and Welfare
 of his People, they diligently Watch over One another for
 good, and where any Weakness or unfaithfulness touching
 any Branch of our Christian Testimony appears in any Mak-
 ing Profession with us, Let Such be timely & tenderly
 Advised, and in the Wisdom of Truth Stirred up to their
 Duty.

1735.

1735

And We do further Recommend, as a Means very Condu-
 cive to the preservation of Friends a People of One Heart &
 One Way, for the good of themselves and their Children, after
 them, That the Discipline of the Church in the Several Meetings
 of instituted for that purpose, be kept up, and Managed in a
 Spirit of Love & Wisdom: Let all things in those Meetings
 be done with Charity; Let the Love of God in an especial
 manner Rule in your hearts, and therein, tho sometimes dis-
 ferent Sentiments may arise, yet will every Member have
 the Same thing in View, Viz: the Glory of God, and the Good
 of his Church and People, and in this Singleness of heart-
 they will best promote the great End and Services of those
 Meetings; We Advise, therefore upon this Occasion, That nothing
 be.

Discipline

- 1735 be Done thro Strife and Contention ~~in~~ ^{our} Private Views, Or the Influence of Numbers; But in Loveliness of Mind, let each Esteem another better than himself, And where any Debates arise, Endeavour in a Spirit of Meekness to Convince One Another; And as you so Stand mutually engaged in Love, your hearts will be Enlarged, and all undue Warmths and Discord will be gradually removed, and you will be enabled thro Meekness, Humility, Longsuffering and Forbearance One of another, to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, always bearing in Mind that excellent Cautions of the Apostle, Gal: 5, 26. Let us not be aiming at our Glory, provoking One Another, envying One another, knowing this, That the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, against Such there is no Law; And they that are Christs, have Crucified the Flesh with the Affections and Lusts; If We live in the Spirit, let us also Walk in the Spirit. Ver. 22, 23, 24, 25.

See Appeals, ... page, 1 to Δ.

Arbitrations, page, 9 to 10.

Families, page, ~~XX~~ Δ 125 to 127.

Fighting, page, 131 to 133.

Marriage, page, 157 to 16Δ.

17Δ1.

17Δ1

See Marriage, page, 16Δ.

17Δ3.

17Δ3

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 188.

17ΔΔ.

17ΔΔ

See Law, — page, 1Δ8.

Marriage, page, 165.

Talebearing, page, 383.

Fighting, page, 132.

17Δ5.

17Δ5

See Appeals, ... page, Δ.

1747.

1747 Agreed, That where a Person Commits an Offence within
 offenders a Monthly Meeting wherein he resides, but is not properly
 may be dealt with a Member by the Rules of Settlement, shall by such Monthly
 by the Meeting where the Offence is committed be Dealt with, and
 Monthly Meeting if it be of such a Nature as Merits a Denial, the Said Meeting
 where they shall Disown him, and on his Repentance receive him
 reside again into Unity; which shall not Intitle him to Member-
 ship in the Monthly Meeting so having dealt with him,
 but to the Meeting of which he was a Member before such
 Dealing; And the Monthly Meeting who hath Disowned
 or Accepted such Friend; shall immediately give Notice
 of such Denial or Acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to
 which he belongs.

See Marriage, page 106.

1748.

1748

See Marriage, page, —

1749.

1749 Advised, That Friends would be very Careful to avoid
 keep Out and beware of that Spirit which leadeth into heats and Strife,
 heat & and which can never work the Righteousness of God, but
 Strife. treat such with tenderness & affection in whom there may be
 difference of Opinion, Endeavouring in the Love & Meekness
 of Truth, to convince their judgments, and patiently to wait
 for the healing Influences of the Love of God, which will
 produce that Brotherly Regard and Condescension, as may
 unite their Spirits to him and One unto Another.

1750.

1750 The Want of Due Concern to Deal with such as walk inco-
 sistently with our holy Profession, and are unfaithful in
 respect to our Christian Testimony being but too Obvious,

1750 Early and diligent Care over Such is earnestly Recommended.
 We desire, that all who have at heart the Honour of God,
 the prosperity of Truth, would be Stirred up to discharge
 this necessary part of Christian Duty, in their respective Sta-
 tions: Timely Caution may often prevent unhappy Effects; and
 a Brotherly Care over such as are in danger of receiving hurt
 may be rewarded with the Secret Satisfaction of being made
 Instrumental in their preservation.

Greatly would the Christian Discipline established among
 us, if thus exerted in divine Wisdom & Zeal, contribute to
 prevent the growing Evils & hurtful Liberties of various kinds
 which appear in too many places, to the dishonour of God,
 the grief of good Men, & the Reproach of our holy Profession.

But if Individuals Neglect their Duty, grow cool
 in their Love to God, and lose that hunger after divine
 Virtue & inward Support, to live to His praise and their
 own Comfort, which is the certain effect of his Visitation
 wherever it is Embraced; How can a proper Concern for
 the Good of Others, and for the prosperity of Truth, have
 due place in their Minds? Or be properly exerted by
 those who are not enough Engaged to feel after the
 Increase of its blessed Effects for themselves.

As this Neglect of Steadily applying & waiting for
 heavenly Virtue and ability to discharge the Duties re-
 quired of us, is the Source of loss and decay to particulars
 with respect to a growth in Religion, so the same unhapp.
 Effects are communicated to the Body; and where this
 is the Case, evidently discover themselves in a disregard
 to Discipline, and the want of a proper Concern for the
 good Order of the Church.

1750 Let all therefore be excited to Labour, in a Spirit of Love and fervent Charity, with such as may be in danger, of falling into things injurious to their Peace, and tending to the dishonour of Our Christian Profession; So that in thus exercising a tender Care and Watchfulness over One another for mutual Edification, We may approve Ourselves faithful just and true in the Sight of God, and Examples of Temperance, Patience, Purity and Holiness before Men, to the Praise of the Most high, the Comfort of His People, and our own eternal Happiness.

1751.

1751 The Answers to Our Queries brought in being Plain & Explicit, have in that respect given this Meeting ^{Answers to} good Satisfaction. — thereby affording an Opportunity ^{Plain & Explicit} to this Meeting to impart the necessary Advice: — Which Care we recommend to the Practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

And We Intreat the Elders amongst you, Rule with diligence, abide in that Power that gives Dominion over all corrupt Spirits, and in Meekness and Condescension seek to recover that which is Strayed, that when the great Shepherd shall appear, you may receive your Reward.

1760.

1760 Agreed and Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport or Rhode Island, That for Initiating Convinced Persons into Membership, who have not had their Birth & Education amongst Friends.

That They first apply to a preparative Meeting, and in that preparative Meeting request to come under the Care of Friends, if the preparative Meeting approve the Same. That they acquaint the Monthly Meeting thereof, and the Person so requesting to worship attend at that time, and signify His or Her desire to be taken.

Discipline

1700 taken under their care, whereupon the Monthly Meeting shall appoint some Suitable Friends to Enquire into the Persons Life & Conversation, and also to take a Solid Opportunity of Conference with the Petitioner in Order the better to understand whether their Motive for such Request, be Sincere and from the Bottom of true Conviction, and make Report accordingly to the Monthly Meeting, which if Satisfactory to the Meeting, that a Minute be then made thereon Signifying their Accepting such a Person into Membership with Us.

But in all such Cases Friends are Desired Carefully to Attend to the Advice of the Apostle. viz.

Lay hands Suddenly on no Man.

See Removals &c. Page 307.

1770.

1770 Respecting the proposal brought from the morning Meeting of Ministers and Elders concerning Members not attending their meetings, it is our judgment, that the same be established as a rule in our Society.

Concerning the request brought from said morning Meeting, it is our judgment, that the establishing such Select Meetings, under such regulations as is prescribed in said request may be of service in our Society, as follows.

That where it shall appear upon due inspection made, that any Member shall, or do neglect or omit the due attendance of their Meetings through sloth, indolence, love of the world, or like weaknesses in Religion, that each Monthly Meeting take care that all such be timely visited in love, and requalified with the mind of Friends in that case; and exhort them to faithful service, and if not withstanding the due Christian Love & admonition

1770 he she or they shall continue in the said neglect & omission, if a Minister, his or her publick testimony be denied, and if an Elder, he or she be dismissed from that station.

We also desire that you would take into consideration whether it might not prove advantageous to our Society to have at each General Meeting; a Select Meeting both at the beginning, and end of every such meeting, and a Committee appointed to have the oversight of such Meetings, and make report to the Select meeting; then to the Society, and also to the yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders annually at Newport.

And as to the matter referred from the Quarterly Meeting of Rhode Island, concerning what Transgression or misconduct ought to be publicly testified against either by the Meeting or the parties offending, it is our judgment, that the first Paragraph in the Book of Discipline, under the head of Discipline, page 99 is a sufficient Rule in that case, if attended to.

And as to the other reference from said Quarterly Meeting, whether it be not an inconsistency in Societys conduct, in allowing their members to undertake to join people in Marriage after the manner of the world, it is our judgment, that it is an inconsistency; and it is the mind of this Meeting, that if any member be found in the practice thereof for the future, he shall be dealt with as a transgressor.

1774.

As to the affair brought from Haddameth arising this Meeting's advice, whether one parent either Father or Mother being a Member entitles their Children to Membership — It is our sense and judgment, that the children

Discipline

1774 Children of such parents as are married amongst Friends shall be looked upon as Members, and the Children of such parents as become members by application shall be likewise looked upon as Members, provided the parents made application whilst their Children were under their care and behaved orderly —

And that where but one of the Parents is a Member, either Father or Mother, become so either by application or otherwise, their children shall not be looked upon as members, unless their Father or Mother professing with us make application to the Monthly Meeting on account of their Children, and then the Monthly Meeting judge whether such Children be suitable to be admitted or not, and it is advised, that where it so happens that but one of the Parents are Members of our Society, that they endeavour to bring up their Children agreeable to Truth, as far as in their power, and not neglect to ask the care of Friends in behalf of their Children —

1777.

1777 The following Explanation of the Minute of 1774. is instituted —

It is the sense and judgment of this meeting, that all children that are born of parents while they are both Members, shall be looked upon as members, and no others, unless Parents who had Children before they were Members apply on their behalf, and the Monthly Meeting think they are suitable also, where but one parent is a Member, either Father or Mother, such parent professing with us may make application to the Monthly Meeting on behalf of their Children, and then the Monthly Meeting

Discipline

III

1777. judge whether such children are suitable to be admitted as members or not —

And it is agreed that when it happens, that but one of the Parents are members of our Society, that they endeavour to educate their Children agreeable to Truth, as far as in their power, and not request to ask the care of Friends in behalf of them —

Disputes

113

N^o. 12. Concerning Disputes.

1676.

1676. Advised, That Friends be tender to the tender Principles of God in all, and shun the Occasion of Vain Disputes, Disputes. and Janglings, both among themselves and Others, for that many times is like a blustering wind, that hurts and bruises the tender Buds and Plants.

1699.

1699. Because Our Comfort as a People depends upon Our Care to maintain Peace and Fellowship among Brethren in all Our Services; We earnestly recommend an humble & condescending frame of Spirit unto all, that with Godly Fear, Wisdom and Meekness We may be so ordered in all our respective Services, that every high & rough thing may be laid Low and all Occasions of Striving be prevented, the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved & Augmented among us; And to that Purpose it is tenderly Advised, That We diligently and carefully Observe the comely & blessed Gospel Order so long known, and in Practice among us, in the Spirit of Meekness & of a Sound Mind, which is the way to Crush all Differences in their Infancy, and Supports the True, as well as Stop the Progress of every thing that's unseemly and inconsistent with the Testimony of the precious Truth.

1736.

1736. And it is the earnest desire, of this Meeting, that a Spirit of Love and Humility may more & more diffuse itself among us, and Influence the hearts of all, that so every One may come to Seek Peace & pursue it; and that none be apt to take offence; that each in his own particular be more careful to rectify his own failings & imperfections, than Curious in censuring, censureing & aggravating those of Others; this will lead to the Exercise of Mutual forbearance & forgiveness.

1730 One of another, by which the occasion of contention will be avoided, and the Churches preserved in a State of Peace and Tranquillity.

Concerning Donations.

1772.

1772.

As to Subscriptions Collections and donations for publick uses, it is our sense and judgement, they ought to be taken and received from the Members of a Society only.

Epistles

119

W. 13. Concerning Epistles.
1096.

1096 Ordered, That all Epistles directed to the Yearly Meeting, not already read by the Second Day's Morning Meeting, be perused and considered by Persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting, before they are published & read in the Said Meeting.

1098.

1098 Ordered, That the Answers to the Several foreign Epistles, when drawn, be brought to the Second Day's Morning Meeting before Sent, and Copies left there,

1701.

1701 See Correspondents, page, 75.

1702.

1702 Agreed, That when Answers are drawn up to the Several Epistles, they be Shown unto the Second day's Morning Meeting, and Sent as formerly, and the Epistles left there.

1709 & 1713.

1709
1713

See Correspondents, pages 75 & 76.

1715.

1715 This Meeting desires the Correspondents to make Speedy Answers to the Epistles delivered them, and that the Same at the Yearly Meeting when prepared, be brought to the Morning Meeting, and the Meeting for Sufferings, in order to be Signed,

1719.

1719 Whereas it is observed, that in Some Epistles for Foreign Parts, mention is made, that they are Signed by Order and in behalf of the Said Meetings, but no Notice that they have been read & approved there. It is therefore desired that due Care be taken, that as often as may be, Such Epistles may

Epistles

1719 may be read & approved in those Meetings, and expressed in the Epistle they have been so: The Correspondents for foreign parts to give them Notice hereof.

1728.

1728 'Tis referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to take care to send Epistles to all the American Islands, & other places abroad in the British or other Dominions, where any Friends are resident.

1730.

1730 This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that the Correspondents for Foreign Countries answer the several Epistles received from thence; And also to write to the several distant places in the World, wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore corresponded, where any Friends are, Notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any Account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise; And that all such answers — allowed, be signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of this Yearly Meeting.

The Meeting for Sufferings to answer Epistles, & to write to all other places where Friends are, all the Epistles be received.

No 10. Concerning Visiting of Families.

1708.

1708

Forasmuch as a Godly Care is growing among Friends in many places, that all things which are unsavory & hurtful might be removed, that so all that profess the precious Truth with us, may come up together in the good Order of the Gospel; For the furthering of which and encouraging thereunto, It is recommended, That Weighty & Sensible Friends of Advice to unblameable Conversations, be Chosen in the Wisdom of God, to Visit the Families of Friends in His Love, who are desired to Advise or Admonish in the peaceable Spirit of Truth, as Occasion may be Seen.

1710.

1710

We Esteem it very necessary & requisite, that Young Convinced, and well inclined Persons & Friends, be early Visited in the Love of God, by Faithful Friends, for their Encouragement, help, & furtherance in the Truth; And that the Christian Duty of Visiting the Sick, be timely remembered, and Practiced, it having often left Comfort, Ease & Sweetness upon the Spirits of many to their very End.

1729.

1729

And we would hope, if Friends in their Monthly Meetings, should pursuant to the Directions of this Meeting, in the Epistle of 1708, appoint proper, Sensible, & honest Friends to Visit their respective Members, it may in great measure prevent the Necessity of repeating the Advice which have been so frequently given.

1731.

1731

See Children - page, 27.

1733.

1733

to appoint
Friends to
visit Families.

p. 125.

We again recommend to Friends in their Several Monthly Meetings to take especial Care to Appoint proper prudent and judicious Friends to Visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former advices, Viz^t in the Epistles 1708 & 1729, herewith Sent; And that Such Friends Labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love, and in the Methods of Wisdom, to convince the Judgment of their respective Members, of the necessity of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian-Profession; that so the Several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given Our Ancients and Us to bear, may be Maintained unviolated.

See Meetings for Discipline. page, 185.

1737.

1737

And Dear Friends, having received very Comfortable Accounts from divers places, of the good disposition raised in the Minds of Young Persons, to Walk in that Plainness & Self-denial which have been often recommended by this Meeting; . . . We earnestly desire, That Parents & Guardians, and Friends every where, would Watch over Such, and Encourage & Cherish every thing that may Contribute to their growth & progress in the Ways of Truth and Holiness: And for the Strength and Encouragement of every Such well disposed Young Person; We earnestly Exhort Masters & Mistresses of Families to be Exemplary, and to enforce this advice by an agreeable Conversation or Practice; and is no wise to discourage, but Encourage both their Children and Servants in that Plainness of Speech and Behaviour which the Truth leads to.

Fighting

131

N^o 15. Concerning Fighting.

1093.

1093

against
Carrying
Guns
in Ships.

A Complaint being made about some Ship Masters, who profess the Truth, and are Esteemed Quakers, their Carrying Guns in their Ships Supposing thereby to defend and Secure themselves and their Ships, contrary to their former Practice & Principle, and to the endangering their Own & Others Lives thereby, Also giving Occasion of more Severe hardships & Sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are pressed into Ships of War, who for Conscience sake cannot fight nor destroy Mens lives: 'Tis therefore recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings whereunto such Ship-Masters belong, to Deal with them in Gods Wisdom & tender love, to Stir them up, and awaken their Consciences, that they may Seriously Consider how they injure their Own Souls in so doing, and what Occasion they give to make the Truth and Friends to Suffer by their Declension, and acting Contrary thereunto, thro' disobedience and unbelief, placing their Security in that which is altogether Insecure and Dangerous; Which we are really sorry for, and Sincerely desire their Recovery, and Safety from Destruction, that their Faith & Confidence may be in the Arm and Power of God. — See more in the Same Printed Epistle 1709.

1709

The foregoing Advice Still Recommended.

1730.

1730

against
Carrying
Arms or
Fighting

It hath been a weighty Concern on this Meeting that Our Ancient & Honourable Testimony against Friends being Concerned in Bearing Arms, or Fighting, may be Main-
tained; It being a Doctrine and Testimony agreeable to the

Fighting

1730 the Nature and design of the Christian Religion, and to the Universal Love & Grace of God: This Testimony We desire may be Strictly & Carefully Maintained, by a Godly Care and Concern in all to Stand Single & Clear therein, So shall We Strengthen & Comfort One Another.

1732.

1732

See Questions, page 287.

1733.

1733

It having been in pressing Terms represented & complained of to this Meeting, that notwithstanding We have, as a People, Looked upon ourselves, as well as the Primitive Christians, to be included in that notable Prophecy, —
 Testimony against War. *Isaiah, 2. They shall beat their Swords into Ploughshares, and their Spears into pruning hooks, and Learn War no more;* Agreeable to the Doctrine of Our Blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, and His Apostles, to which our Ancient Friends abundantly bore Testimony, both in Doctrine & Practice, and Suffered deeply for, and Confirmed & Ratified by several of Our Yearly Meetings, particularly in the Years 1693, 1709, and 1730. by their Express Declarations & Testimonies against Carrying Guns for Defending our Ships, Persons & Goods:
 And being under many strong Engagements to observe the Same, from the particular Care of Providence over Such as have been faithful to This Our Testimony, particularly those of Our Friends in Pennsylvania.

Nevertheless some professing to be of the Society have of late slighted and neglected this our Ancient and Christian Testimony to that Degree as ^{to be} concerned in privateering or as owners in Ships going with Letters of Marque, which is a flagrant & lamentable Departure from our peaceable Principles, which hath always been to

1755 Consider in the Protection and Providence of Almighty God, and not in Weapons of War; which Practice of theirs may be attended with Injustice, Barbarity and Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this sorrowful & afflicting Case and Breach of Our ancient Testimony into our Serious Consideration, have thought it our incumbent Duty, to bear our Testimony against Such Practices; And tis the unanimous Sense of this Meeting, That all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings ought Speedily to Deal with every Person found in the Practice of such things, in the Spirit of Truth and Love, in Order to bring them to a Sense of their Error, & to Reclaim them from it, which if they cannot Do, then to Testify against them, and let them know We have no Unity or Fellowship with them.

And See Questions, page, 288.

N^o. 16. Concerning Kings & Governours.
1689.

1689 ^{to give no offence to those in Government.} Advised, To walk wisely & circumspectly towards all Men, in the peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving No Offence nor Occasions to those in Outward Government; Nor way to any Controversies, Heats or distractions of this World about the Kingdom of it; but pray for the Good of all, & Submit all to that Divine Power & Wisdom which Rules over the Kingdoms of Men.

1690 ^{1690.} It is Advised, That Friends be Circumspect, and not make it their business to Discourse of the Outward Powers, but to discourage all such things.

And, Dear Friends, altho We gave plain and Christian Advice & Admonition last year, for Friends to beware of all airy Discourses, Disputes & Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World, that all might walk wisely & circumspectly, in Subjection to the divine and over Ruling Power & Wisdom of God: yet contrariwise, to our grief, We have heard too much Complaint and Reflections occasioned by some, who have not observed a true Bridle to their Tongues; but have been too busy, loose & airy in discourses of that Nature: And therefore We do Exhort & Admonish all such, in the Fear of God, and as they have respect unto his holy Truth, and innocent People, and their own Safety, to be watchful, careful & circumspect for the time. to come. Not here may suffer as busybodies, nor bring Suffering or Reproach, or Cause jealousies to be raised upon or against others that are innocent; and singly desire the preservation, Safety and Peace of all Friends in Truth and innocency towards all Men.

Kings & Governours

1092.

1092 This Meeting was well Satisfied, and very glad, in the Sense they had of the Innocency & peaceableness of the Body of Our Friends in general towards the Civil Government, under which we live and Enjoy our present Liberty, in the peaceable Exercise of our tender Consciences toward Almighty God, to whom we are humbly thankful for the Same; being obliged to Demean Ourselves not only as a grateful People, but as a Christian Society to Live peaceably and inoffensively under the present Government, as we have always done under the various Revolutions of Government ever since we were a People, according to our ancient Christian Principle and Practice, in which, we hope, we shall ever persevere to the End of our days; according as we are enjoined by our peaceable Saviour Christ Jesus, and the Christian advice of His faithful Servants and Ministers among us: We being a People Clear in the Sight of God from all evil Designs, Plots & Conspiracies whatsoever; and hope in God that we shall continue a People always Quiet in the Land, having nothing but Love & Goodwill to all Men; For which End, we earnestly desire & hope that a Christian Care may not be wanting among you for the preservation of our whole Society in that Innocent Life & peaceable Conversation which is agreeable to our Christian Principle & Profession, wherein we have from the beginning found our Safety & Peace with God, and Him to be our defence; being fully persuaded, that our ancient Christian Testimony publicly owned among us, None can gainsay, Nor any faithful Friends to God & Christ can ever decline it, being Assured our God will in his own due time, remove all Offence & Cause of Jealousies & Reproaches tending to Cloud our Innocency, and will set His own Power and peaceable Kingdom of his Dear Son over all.

Thankfull
acknowledgments
of the favour
of the Govern-
ment.

to Live
peaceably
under it.

Kings & Governours

139

1695.

1695

See Parliament, page, 231.

1698.

1698 This Meeting understanding that Some in the Government have reported, that Some Persons who are called Quakers have Used secret & indirect Ways to take up their Goods without Testimony Paying the Customs & Duties which the Law hath laid upon against them, whereby the King is Defrauded of his Right. —
This Meeting thereupon declares It to be the Judgment of Truth and Friends, that all such Practices are Evil; And that if any Person who professeth Truth should be Guilty thereof, Such Persons would thereby Go out of Truth, and act contrary thereunto.

1703.

1703

Advised, To avoid all indirect & unwarrantable Methods both in Trade & Merchandize, by which the Government may be defrauded of its Due, that so No Reproach may be brought upon our holy Profession by such things.

1705.

1705

Since the Lord's good Providence has so far blessed to walk Friends as to give them favour with the Government; It is Desired that Friends would Continue, with all Humility, to walk Worthy of that Mercy; and Improve the Same by a gentle & peaceable Conversation towards all Men, in their respective Places of abode.

1709.

1709

Advised, Not to put any abuse on the Government by Endeavouring to diminish any of the Customs, Excise, or any Other publick, Civil, Dues. — Yet if any going under Our Profession should happen to be so far Tempted thro Covetousness.

Kings & Governours

1709 Covetousness and the Love of unrighteous Gain, as to be
 to Deal with the guilty. drawn into any such Evil, We Desire you will Deal with
 Such Persons, to make them sensible of such corrupt and
 pernicious practices, that Our holy Profession may not be
 against being blemished thereby: ... Nor any Offence given nor Injury
 concerned in prohibited Goods & Wrecks. done by being concerned in prohibited Goods; Or Wrecks
 unrighteously taken away from the just Owners.

1715.

1715 As the blessed Truth We profess teacheth us to Do justly unto
 all Men, in all things, even so more especially in a faithful
 Subjection to the Government, in all Goodness & honesty, con-
 tinuing to Render unto the King what is his Due in Taxes
 & Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719.

1719 As our Testimony hath ever been, and still is, against the
 against defrauding the King. Defrauding the King of any of his Customs, Duties or Excise;
 & exporting wool or other goods prohibited by Law. Buying Goods reasonably suspected to be Run; Exporting
 Wool, or any other goods prohibited by Law, Or Doing
 any other thing whatsoever to the Injury of the Kings
 Revenues, or of the Common Good, Or to the hurt of the fair
 Trader; So if any Person or Persons under Our Name and
 Profession, shall be known to be Guilty of these or any such
 Crimes & Offences; We do earnestly Advise the respective
 offenders to be testified against. Monthly Meetings to which such Offenders belong, that
 They severely reprehend and Testify against such Offenders,
 and their unwarrantable clandestine & unlawful Actions,
 and Admonish them to make Restitution for the Wrong done
 to the Government, and the holy Truth professed by us.

1721.

1721 The Advice of 1719 repeated.

Kings & Governours

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1723.

1723

See Questions, page —

1730.

1730

Advised, That Friends behave with all dutifulness and gratitude, and especially to Discountenance every the least Appearance of indecent freedom, or Mark of Dissatisfaction in Word or Writing relating to the Government.

1732.

1732

It is very acceptable to us to find by the Accounts from the several parts of the Kingdom, that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting, Friends continue generally careful Not to Defraud the King of his Customs, Duties or Excise; And so far to discourage such Practices, as to avoid Dealing in Goods reasonably suspected to be such; This is a rare highly commendable, and no doubt incumbent on every honest Subject; But as the Government hath Signally favoured us in Our Religious Liberties, We are under the greater Obligations of Gratitude as well as Duty, to Manifest that We are as truly Conscienceous to render to Caesar the things that are Caesars, as to Support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1733.

1733

The last Year's Advice again Recommended.

1734.

1734

We are glad to hear by the Accounts Received, that Friends are generally found in the Practice of their Christian Duty of rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesars; And do earnestly recommend a Strict Care for the Continuance of the Same in every Branch of the King's Revenue.

1735.

1735

The Advice We have received of the general Care of Friends to keep clear from defrauding the King in any Branch of

Kings & Governours

1735 of his Revenue, are very Acceptable to us, who hold it Our indispensable Duty, with Regard to Kings, and all that are in Authority, to Lead a quiet and peaceable Life in all Goodness and Honesty.

1736.

1736 By Accounts from the Several Counties, We do not understand but that Friends are clear from the Practice of Running of Goods, or defrauding the King of his Customs or Revenues: We earnestly Desire that Friends every where may be careful to Discourage such Practices, which are not only unjust, but also inconsistent with that Gratitude which We as a People ought to express towards a Government, to whose Lenity & Goodness we are Obligated for the Privileges We Enjoy.

1737.

1737 Finally Brethren, We recommend you to the Direction and Guidance of the unerring Spirit of Truth within, and the excellent Precepts & Instructions of the holy Scriptures without, which if you shall diligently take heed unto, you will not fail of being perfectly Instructed in the great Duties of Worship towards God the Father and Author of all Our Mercies, of Fidelity & Gratitude to the Government, which His Merciful Providence has Set over us, of Love and Peace among yourselves, and of Justice & Benevolence towards all Men.

1735.

1735 Agreed and Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, That Whereas there is a Matter referred to this Meeting, relating to Friends Signing Commissions to Support Military Affairs, it is the Judgment and Conclusion of this Meeting, that it is Contrary to

Signing
Commissions
for Military
Affairs is
against Friends
Principles

Kings & Governours

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1735 to Our Principles, and whosoever has or shall presume to give or Sign Such Commissions, Acts Contrary to Our Principles and the Antient Testimony of Friends.

1A6

N^o 17. Concerning Law.

1075.

1075 As the Meeting doth not Enjoin, Impose upon, or Advise Friends at any Friends in Sufferings to take Course at Law, for a Remedy, Liberty to defend themselves at Law or not; So neither can We Impose upon them not to use the Law in any Case; But a Freedom is left to the Sufferers to Use such Means as Consists with the Unity of Friends, and their own Peace and Satisfaction in the Truth, and in the bearing a faithful Testimony in Righteousness.

not to reflect upon one another therefore. That Friends do not Judge nor Reflect upon One another in those Cases; A Freedom being left upon urgent Occasions, to take such Course for Relief & Ease to the Oppressed as may not be prejudicial to Truth's Testimony.

to advise in their Meetings. That if any Friends or Friends apprehend a necessity to Endeavour for Relief by the Law of the Land to Stop the Destroyers &c. They first advise about their Case, with their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, or at least with some of the Principle Friends, relating thereto.

That Friends who Suffer, be advised not to Set out their Minds into too much Expectation of outward Relief by Friends here in point of Law; but that they patiently and principally Depend upon the Lord, and his Power to plead their Cause.

1076.

1076 That Friends be careful of Entangling themselves in the Law, because of some small Irregularities in proceeding. But if the Law be materially transgressed, and the Severity of it exceeded by Our Persecutors; That Friends in Gods Wisdom use their Liberty, upon Serious & good Advice among themselves, so as the Truth, and its Testimony, may be kept clear over all.

1093

1693
1696
1697

1693, 1696, 1697.
See Arbitrations, page, 9, 10 & 11, 12.

1698.

1698

See Kings & Governours, page, 139.

1720
1725
1737

1720, 1725, 1737.
See Arbitrations, page, 13 & 15.

1744.

1744

a. See.
Arbitrations
p. 15.

A Minute of this Meeting in 1720^a, advised, That Persons professing with us have proved so Base and unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to remove themselves or their Effects to prevent Justice; Whereby those Creditors who are Friends, have been deprived of an opportunity of the common Method of Friends Specified in the Minute aforesaid; — It is hereby declared that the last paragraph of the said Minute, which prohibits Friends to Sue or Arrest One Another &^a — Is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those Practices from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the Nature of the Case may require; of which Circumstance the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, So it is not doubted but they will do Justice to the Parties Concerned therein.

b. refers to a
Minute in
1697. See
Arbitrations
p. 13 & 15.

This Meeting doth request every Monthly Meeting to appoint and Depute proper persons out of their several Meetings, for such Friends as may have Occasion, to advise with, in the Intervals of Monthly Meetings, and if they see Cause, to give Liberty to Recover as above.

Love

153

N^o 18. Concerning Love.

1703.

1703

See Discipline, page, 102.

1718.

1718

See Yearly Meetings, page, 221.

1730.

1730

Among all the Gospel Precepts We find not any thing more Strongly & frequently recommended by Our Lord Jesus Christ, and His apostles, to the primitive Believers, than that they should Love One Another: And as We are sensible that Nothing will more contribute to the Peace & Prosperity of the Church than a due regard to this Advice, So We earnestly Desire, that it may be the Care & Concern of all Friends every where to dwell therein; And in the Unity of the Holy Spirit to Maintain Love, Concord and Peace in and among all the Churches of Christ.

1732

1732. See Scriptures page, 221.

1735

1735. See Discipline, page, 103, 104.

1736

1736. See Disputes, page, 113.

1870-1871

1871-1872

1872-1873

1873-1874

1874-1875

1875-1876

1876-1877

1877-1878

1878-1879

1879-1880

1880-1881

1881-1882

1882-1883

1883-1884

1884-1885

1885-1886

Concerning Lottories.

1760 This Meeting, being under a weighty concern on account of the prevailing evil amongst Christians professing with us, of being concerned in Lottories this Meeting therefore can do no less than earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, that they do advise such of their Members who have been concerned any ways therein, that they desist from the practice for the future.

Marriage

157

No. 19. Concerning Marriage.

1675.

1675 It is Our living Sense & Judgment in the Truth of God, that
against Marriage with near kindred not only those Marriages of Near Kindred Expressly forbidden
under the Law, ought not to be Practiced - under the Gospel;
But that in as much as any Marriage of Near Kindred - in the
Times of the Law was in Condescension and upon such Extra-
ordinary Occasions as upholding their Tribes; And that the
Nearer their Marriages were, the more unholy they were
Accounted: We in Our Day ought not to Approach our Near
Particularly Kindred in any Such respect, particularly First Cousins;
First Cousins being redeemed Out of those Kindreds, Tribes and earthly
Lots, (for the upholding of which Marriages within the
Kindred were once dispenced with) and brought to that
Spiritual Dispensation which gives Dominion Over the
Affections, and Leads to those Marriages which are more
Natural and are of better Report. And tho Some through
Weakness have been drawn into Such Marriages (which
being done must not be broken) yet let not their practice
be any Precedent or Example to any others amongst Us for
the Time to Come.

So break or violate any Engagement not to be allowed. That Such Friends as have with Serious Advice, due
Deliberation, free & Mutual Consent, as in the Sight of God,
and Unity of his blessed Truth, absolutely Agreed, Espoused
or Contracted upon the Account of Marriage, Shall not be
allowed or owned among Us, in any unfaithfulness or
Injustice One to Another, to break or violate any Such Con-
tract or Engagement, which is to the Reproach of Truth &
Injury One of Another: And where any Such Injury, Breach
or Violation of Such Solemn Contract is known or Comptained
of, or Enmity or Strife occasioned thereby; We Advise and
Counsel

Marriage

1675 Counsel, That a few faithful Friends both Men and Women, in their respective Meetings to which the Parties belong, be appointed to Enquire into the Cause thereof; And in the Wisdom & Counsel of God, to put a Stop & Speedy End thereto; And bring Gods power and the Judgment thereof over them that have Offended in this Case, until they come to unfeigned Repentance.

Consent of
Parents to be
first had. And further We Advise & Exhort that no Engagements made, without honest Endeavours to obtain, or due Regard first had to the Counsel & Consent of Parents; Relations and Friends, be Countenanced: That so all foolish & unbridled Affections, and all ensnaring & selfish Ends be not so much as found among You on any hand.

to be Twice
Proposed at
Least to the
Meetings.
(See p. 100.) It is Our Judgment, that for better Satisfaction to all Parties, and that there may be due Time for Enquiry of Clearness of the Persons Concerned, It is convenient that Marriages be at least twice propounded to the Meetings that are to take Care therein, both to the Men's & Women's Meetings, where both are Established, before they are Accomplished; And Accomplished when things are cleared, that the Marriage be Accomplished Publicly, in a grave & Publick Assembly of Friends & Relations.

1690.

1690 Advised, That Parents & Guardians of Children, in the Fear of God, take Special Care to prevent those under their Charge, from being Engaged or Entangled with any upon the Account of Marriage, before all things relating to their Outward Estates be firmly Agreed on both Parts, that so no Breach may be made upon the Account of Outward things, to the Hurt or prejudice of Young People.

And We do also in the Name of the Lord, Advise and Exhort all Young & unmarried people among Friends

Marriage

159

1090 Friends, That they do not make any Motion or Procedure, One with Another upon the Account of Marriage, without first acquainting their Parents or Guardians therewith, and duly waiting upon them for their Consent and Agreement therein: And We do also Advise, That in the First Place, All young Persons concerned, Seriously wait upon the Lord for Counsel & Learning in this Weighty Concern, before they make any Motion or Procedure with any in Order to Marriage, that the Lord may be in their Eye, so as they may not be Led by any forward, brittle or uncertain Affections in this great Concern, to their Own hurt, Grief of their Friends, and Dishonour of Truth.

And Let it be the Goal of both Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to be careful & mindful of the preservation and Good of Children in this matter, as here proposed and signified; And not omit giving Due & faithful Warnings & Admonitions in this great and weighty Concern.

1091.

1091 Advised, That great Care be taken about Marriages; Concerning For the Consent of Parents; Due and orderly Publication thereof; And Solemnizing of them in a Meeting appointed for that End & Purpose, or on Week Day Meeting, which Method is Convenient and Commendable, as it has been lately made appear in the Eye of the Government, and well resented.

And that Friends be Reminded of this Meetings former Advice, against Marriage with Near Kindred; and against Marrying by Priests; and with Persons of the World, unequally yoking with unbelievers; And against too Early and unfavourable Proceedings in Second Marriages, after the Death of Husband or Wife, Contrary to the Due Method or Practice of faithful Friends in Truth, and tending to the dishonour & reproach thereof.

1092

Marriage

1692.

1692. Advised, That all such as profess the Truth among Friends,
 to be Do publish their Intentions of Marriage at Two Sundry
 proposed to Monthly Meetings at Least, or at Two Sundry Two Weeks
 Two Monthly Meetings or Meetings in such Places where they are settled, be-
 fore they Solemnize the Same; That convenient time
 to Two Two Weeks Meetings may be allowed Friends concerned for Enquiry, and
 Satisfaction, concerning the Consent of Parents & Guardians,
 and their Clearness from all Scandal and Precontracts; -
 See 1691 n. 159 & 1675, p. 158. That Friends may own and Stand by their proceedings
 before the Government and all in Authority, which other-
 wise they cannot, if they proceed not in the Due and
 orderly Publication, and Method of Truth, settled among
 Friends; being a Matter greatly Inquired into, truly
 Warrantable, and to be Stood by.

1695.

1695. And that all diligent Care & Caution be had, that
 against No Friend, or Friends Children be betrayed in Affection or
 Marrying with those otherwise, nor join in Marriage with those who are not
 of our Profession and Society, nor without the
 of our Profession privacy and Consent of Parents, Guardians, or Lawful Tutors
 without Intrusted with them: nor with any Near Kinsred, Contrary
 Consent of to the Law of God, and wholesome Advice already given
 Parents. them: particularly by a Yearly Meetings Epistle 1675, and
 nor with otherwise by the faithful Servants of Christ.
 Near Kin.

1707.

1707. We being sensible of the Hurt that may happen by Per-
 sons under the Profession of Truth, in drawing out the Affec-
 tions of One another, without the Knowledge & Consent of
 Parents or Guardians, Do for preventing such Mischief
 Deliver it as Our Sense and Judgment, That in Case any
 Person

Marriage.

1707 ^{if any} Person reputed a Quaker shall Endeavour to entangle ^{endeavour} the Affection of any Young Woman Professing Truth, or ^{to entangle} shall make Suit unto Her, in Order to Marriage, without ^{the Affection} the Privy & Consent of Her Parents or Guardians first had ^{for young} and obtained. Whether Such Parents or Guardians be Friends ^{Woman} or not; That such Persons ought not to be allowed or permitted ^{without} to proceed in any Meeting of Friends, in order to the Accom- ^{Consent of} plishing such intended Marriage, until they shall have ^{Parents not} removed the Offence, and given Satisfaction both to Such ^{to be} Parents or Guardians, and to the Meeting of Friends to which ^{allowed} they do belong, by an open & due Acknowledgment of the ^{Offence} ~~the~~ Offence, and shall have obtained the Consent of Such Parents or Guardians.

And it is further advised, That after parents & Guardians
Parents not to break have Suffered their Children to engage one another in Affec-
off on tions, they do not break off upon any Worldly Account, but
Worldly Accounts will wait upon & seek the Lord for their Children, in proposals
of Marriage, before they give any Encouragement thereunto.

1708.

1708 Advised to be Carefully & Zealously concerned for Our
Ancient Christian Testimony against that Marriage, that
none of Your Children may be corrupted and Alienated from
the True Church.

1707.

1709
Second Cousins
With respect to a proposal of Marriage between Second Cousins; This Meeting Declares it is not Safe for Friends to encourage any such Marriages in any of our Meetings.

1710:

1710. We desire, that a due care be upon all Parents Guardians
of Children and Youth, to Watch Over them, and tenderly to
Exhort them, to Seek the Lord in that Weighty affair of Mar-
riage, and to Wait upon Him in the Light, for Counsel and
direction of His holy Spirit in that great Concern, that His
Blessing

Marriage

1710 Blessing may be upon them; In Order to which Let none make
 not to make the Earth & the World the ground of their Choice, For that will
 the World the ground of
 Choice. not procure the Blessing, but the Contrary; And will —
 grieve the Lord, may Spoil Families, and bring an Curse
 on the Church of Christ.

1715.

1715

See Plainness, page, 252.

1718.

1718 A Testimony against running into excessive Sumptuous
 against excessive
 Sumptuous
 entertainments. Hostly Entertainments at Marriage Dinners; A great
 part of which would be better Employed in relieving —
 the Necessities of the Poor.

1719.

1719 In Order to put a Stop to an undue Liberty, in Contract-
 ing Marriages with Such as are not of Our Society, It is
 Endeavour
 to be used to
 prevent
 Mixt
 Marriages. Advised, That all Parents & Guardians of Children, do take
 Special Care, as much as in them lieth, to prevent their
 Children from running into Such Marriages; And that Friends
 of each particular Meeting, as also of the Monthly Meeting
 to which Such Persons belong, Do in the Wisdom & Power
 of Truth, use their Endeavours to put a Stop to the said Evil,
 by Admonishing Such as may attempt to Marry as afore-
 said, to Desist, before they accomplish the Same: But if
 and if any
 do so marry
 these are to
 be Dealt
 with. they Refuse to take Counsel, or privately go on to Marry
 as aforesaid, that then Such Persons be Dealt with, according
 to the Good Order of Truth, and Judgment fixed upon all —
 Such as take such an undue Liberty.

1722.

1722
 Advice to
 Parents.

Parents who have Children to dispose of in Marriage,
 are tenderly Advised, Not to make It their first or Chief —
 Care, to obtain for them Large Portions or Settlements of
 Marriages, But rather be Careful that their Children be
 joined —

Marriage

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1722 Joined in Marriage with Persons of Religious Inclinations, Sutable Disposition, Temper, Sobriety of Manners, and Diligence in Business; which are things Essentially necessary to a comfortable Life in a Married Estate: — And Carefully to guard against Marriages. all mixt Marriages, and unequal Yoking of their Children therein.

1723.

1723 As Parents have a Natural Right to approve of and Consent Children to the Marriage of their Children, So this Meeting doth earnestly to advise Desire, That Friends Children, would Consult and Advise with Parents or their Parents and Guardians in that great & Weighty Point, so Essential to their Happiness & Comfort, before they Set out their Minds, or do Entangle their Affections; The too frequent Examples that have happened to the contrary hereof, have caused Lamentation in honest Parents, and great Affliction to themselves.

1724.

1724 Advised, That Care and Enquiry be Seasonably made to prevent all designing Persons in their Endeavours to Entangle the Affections of our Youth in relation to Marriage; The unhappy Disobedience of some therein having frequently brought deep Affliction on their tender Parents, and Misery on themselves: — And on this Occasion, we again tenderly desire, That Parents or Guardians do not make Earthly Riches, a Chief view or Cause of Consent in Marriage.

1727.

1727 The Advice in the Year 1695, Repeated.

1730.

1730 We also Recommend the Good Order of Friends relating to Marriage, That it be Carefully preserved and Duty maintained, in the first & Earliest proceedings leading thereunto

Marriage

1730 *the good Order of Friends relating to Marriage to be maintained.* Thereunto, as well as the Orderly Solemnization thereof: And if any Persons, Contrary to the repeated Advice and Established Order of Friends, should under any Pretence whatsoever presume to take One Another in any Meeting for Worship, without the Consent of the Monthly Meeting to which they belong; Such proceeding being of a clandestine Nature, tending to make void the just Care of Friends in that Case, which is of good Esteem among the People: We Advise, That the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to Testify against the Practice, as well as against the Persons concerned therein.

173A.

173A And We do Exhort Friends every where, That in the great Concern of Marriage, wherein much of the Comfort & Happiness of Life depends, They be mindful to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to Him for Counsel & Instruction in their Choice; the Neglect of which has been the Ruin of many Families, and tended much to the Reproach & Dishonour of Our holy Profession.

1738.

1738 See the Printed Epistle of 1738.

17A1.

17A1 This Meeting having deliberately considered the great Exercise brought upon Our Society by divers in Profession with us, who Contrary to Our Principles, and that wholesome Discipline established amongst Friends, Do Marry by the those who Priests With those not in Communion with us, and some Marry by the who both Profess with us, join in Marriage in the Same be dealt with. Manner; It's therefore earnestly Requested of all Friends, that they use their utmost Endeavours to prevent all Such Marriages, whensoever the Party's Intentions may come to their Knowledge; And that all Monthly Meetings when such

1781 Such Marriages may happen, Immediately Deal with the Offenders for their Outgoings, and Endeavour in the Wisdom of Truth to bring them to a true Sense of their disorderly Practice: And if the Labour of Friends should have so good an Effect, that they in Sincerity give a Testimony under their hands, condemning their said Practice, to the Satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting; In such Case Friends are desired to use tenderness towards them; But if the Christian Care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true Sense of their Error, then the Monthly Meeting is hereby Directed to give forth a Testimony against Such, for the clearing of Truth and Friends.

And it is the Sense of this Meeting, that where any Marry contrary to the Rules of Our Society as aforesaid, Their Collections shall not be received by any Meeting; Nor They be relieved in the Manner of Poor Friends; Nor be admitted to Sit in Meetings of Discipline, until They are Restored into Unity with the Monthly Meetings to which They formerly belonged: Yet it is not hereby intended to hinder the Charity of Friends in their private Capacities, to extend it when and to whom they shall see meet.

1788.

1788 This Meeting having deliberately Considered the great Exercise brought upon Our Society by divers in profession with us, who contrary to our known Principles, and the wholesome Discipline Established amongst us, are joined in Marriage by the Priest, with Persons either of Our own, or Other Perswasions, Do earnestly advise, That all Friends use their utmost Endeavours to prevent Such Marriages, whensoever the Party's Intentions may come to their Knowledge.

Marriage

17AD And it is the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting, —
 those who do Marry by the Priest, or in any other
 do Marry in Manner, contrary to the Established Rules of the Society,
 any manner They shall be Dealt with in a Spirit of Christian Love &
 contrary to our Rules to Sufferings, agreeable to our known Discipline: And that
 be Dealt with after the Commission of Such Offence, and during such Deal-
 ing, their Collection shall not be received: Nor shall they be
 allowed in the Manner of Poor Friends; Nor be Admitted
 to Sit in Meetings for Discipline, until They are Restored
 into Unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

To Deal in due time with such & all other disorderly walkers.
 And We earnestly Advise, all Friends that you watch
 diligently Over One another for Good; And that you Deal in
 due Time with Such Offenders, & all Others that Walk disorderly;
 Endeavouring to reclaim & restore them by brotherly Admo-
 nition and Counsel; — But where after patient waiting, you
 find that your continued Labour of Love hath not it's
 desired Effect; That you Neglect Not to Testify against
 and Disown such Persons; thereby preventing the Reproach
 & Dishonour, which might be brought upon Our holy —
 Profession thro' their Misconduct; And that the End & design
 of Friends in settling a wholesome Discipline among us
 may be answered.

which is Substituted in Lieu of the Minute made
 in 17AD, respecting Marriages by Priests.

17AD5.

17AD5. See Meetings for Discipline page 180.

17AD7.

17AD7 This Meeting, on Receiving a Minute relating to
 against Marriage of Persons Near of kin, having taken into Consideration
 the Yearly Meeting Minute of 1675, made against
 such Marriages, and particularly of First Cousins, Do Declare
 it to be Our Sense and Judgment, that to Monthly Meeting,
 or

Marriage

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1757 or Other Meeting whatsoever, should pass First Cousins, in
 n. 157. 159. Order for Marriage. — And this Meeting earnestly Desires
 See 1709 all Friends whenever they know or hear of any First or
 p. 161. Second Cousins designing or intending to Marry, that they
 Immediately advise them against it.

1759.

1759 Upon a Proposition Received, relating to the Marriage
 of Persons Near of Kin; This Meeting appointed a Commit-
 tee to Consider the Same, who brought in the following
 Report, to which after being twice Read, the Meeting
 Agreed, Viz^t.

We Your Committee appointed to Consider the
 Paper relating to Marriage, Met accordingly, and having
 Considered the Same, and Examined the Scriptures referred
 to, Are Unanimously of Opinion, that the Yearly Meeting
 Minutes 1675, and 1757, are to be Strictly adhered to.
 W. Signed the 19th 3rd mo 1759 by 23 Friends. —

1772.

1772. It is our sense and judgment that our Discipline
 forbids the Marriage of Brothers Children, Sisters Children,
 Half Brothers Children, Half Sisters Children, and a first
 Cousin, and all persons whomsoever nearer than a
 second cousin and second cousin's are advised to advise
 therefore and if any notwithstanding should proceed
 in Marriage, together nearer than Second Cousins, being
 previously cautioned, and advised against it that the
 Yearly Meeting, where such may be, give forth a
 public Testimony against them, and not to receive such
 until such Meeting be well advised that
 such persons have found a place of sincere repentance,
 and are received in the Truth. —

Marriage

1773.

1773) It is our painful sense and judgment upon the Query brought from Rhode Island Quarterly, whether it were consistent with Truth for any Friends to Marry with a deceased wife's sister, or deceased Husband's brother. — That Friends be careful to give timely advice and admonition against such a procedure, and if any should be reluctant thereto and proceed in Marriage that such be without delay denied membership and testificia against, as having committed a heinous Transgression, and that such be not admitted to membership in the Society, until Friends shall be well assured that they are received in the Truth.

1774.

1774) As to the matter from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting respecting Marriage with near of kin; we apprehend the Rule of the Society very clear and good in that respect, and that ought to be strictly adhered to — Nor Dartsouth nor any other Monthly Meeting suffer any to Marry nearer of kin than is tolerated by the Discipline.

1778—

1778) It is our judgment that the Business performed in laying the Intentions and receiving members in cases of Marriage in the Monthly Meetings is of the same nature of the Meetings other business, and that they ought to be selected in the same manner, with this liberty, that if any particular circumstance attend that performance at any time, orderly Persons may be admitted to attend that part of the Business, provided they have the consent of the Meeting at that time.

Marriage —

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1778 We have likewise considered the proposal on the 1st Query respecting what time shall be supposed to be too early for proposals of Marriage —

It is ~~at~~ our judgment that it is advisable for Friends not to make or admit of proposals of Marriage in less than six to twelve months after the decease of former husband or wife —

Meeting Houses

171

N^o 20. Concerning Meeting Houses.

1691.

1691 ^{all} Meeting houses to be entered according to Law. Advised, That all and every your Meeting houses, and Mansion houses where Meetings are or may be; Be Entered upon Record as the Law directs, each particularly; We having seen both the Service and Safety thereof, and the hurt & Danger that may come by the Omission.

1703.

1703 ^{Tithes to be made secure} Advised, That Friends in the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings take Special Care that the Tithes of Friends Meeting houses & Burial Grounds be made Secure according to Law; This Meeting understanding there is a deficiency in this respect in some Places.

1737.

1737 ^{Tithes to be inspected & secured} It having been represented to us, that in divers parts of the Nation, Losses have been sustained to Our Society, by Not timely Looking into and Securing the Tithes of Meeting-houses, Burial Grounds, and Charitable Requests; We have thought fit to recommend it to the Care of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to make timely Inspection in what Hands and Trusts the same are Secured, and if they find Occasion by the Death of any Friend or Friends, to add some others to the Trust, so that Friends may not be deprived of the Benefit of such Meetinghouses and Burial Grounds: And that each Quarterly Meeting keep Exact Records of all such Trusts & Conveyances.

Meetings for Discipline

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N^o 21. Concerning Meetings for Discipline.

1075.

1075 It is our Judgment and Testimony in the Word of the Gods Wisdom, that the Rise & Practice, Setting up and Establishment of Mens & Womens Meetings in the Church of Christ in this our Generation, is according to the Mind & Counsel of God, and done in the Ordering and Leading of his Eternal Spirit: And that is the Duty of all Friends & Brethren, in the Power of God, in all Parts, to be diligent therein, and to Encourage and further each other in that blessed Work, and particularly that Friends & Brethren in their respective Counties Encourage their faithful and grave Women in the Settlement of the said Meetings.

1070.

1070 The Power of God is the Authority of the Mens and the Womens Meetings, and of all the Other Meetings. All the faithful Men & Women in every Country, City & Nation, whose Faith Stands in the Power of God, the Gospel of Christ, and have Received this Gospel, and are in the Possession of this Gospel, the Power of God, They have all Right to the Power of the Meeting, for they be Heirs of the Power and the Authority of the Mens & Womens Meetings.

1091.

1091 Advised to Encourage the faithful Womens Meetings, and the Settling them where they are wanting and may with Conveniency be Settled, knowing their Service, and what need there is also of their Godly Care in the Church of Christ in divers weighty Respects proper to them.

1093

Meetings for Discipline.

1093. To Avoid Contention and Strife in all Meetings, it is
 1093 the Advice and Sense of this Meeting,
 1. That all Friends have a Care of God's Glory, and be tender thereof as hath been often Advised.
 2. To keep the Authority of your Meetings in the Power of God, and Unity of His blessed Spirit, whereby They were created & Settled; and Continue your Godly Care & Services therein, for those good Ends for which they were first Instituted.
 3. To keep Out all Contention, Personal Reflections, & Smitings out of your Meetings, and keep Down, and Out of all Heats & Passions, and Doubtful Disputations.
 4. Suffer no Turbulent, Contentious, Quarrelsome, Spirit or Person to be Concerned among you, in Ordering your Affairs, that they may be all Managed in the peaceable tender Spirit & Wisdom of Christ Jesus.
 5. Suffer no Divisions or Schisms or Making Parties, among yourselves, One against Another; for that will greatly tend to Weaken your Meetings, and Lose their Power, and to Cause them and you to be Slighted.
 6. Both Our Men's & Women's Meetings, & Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, and Yearly Meetings, & Meetings for Sufferings, were Set up in the Wisdom, Counsel, and tender Love of God; and in the same peaceable Wisdom to be kept, and Encouraged, for all those good Ends for which they were intended & appointed.

See Records, page,

1096.

- 1096 Let all your Affairs be Managed in your Meetings, in the peaceable Wisdom & Spirit of Our Lord Jesus Christ; Not Striving, but Bearing One with another for Another; that the Power of Christ may rest upon you and Rule in all your Assemblies.

Meetings for Discipline. 177

1697.

1697 Advised, that Monthly & Quarterly Meetings keep up our Christian Order, and Religious Discipline in the Church; — that all Disorder & Looseness may be prevented.

1700.

1700 Keep all your Meetings, as well those for Good Order, Charity & Christian Discipline, as those set apart entirely for the Worship of God, in His Love, and in the Name — Power & Peaceable Spirit of his Dear Son Jesus Christ; for without them we can do nothing; And in His blessed Power stand fast in righteous judgment, over all unruly and disorderly Spirits, that would break in upon the Good Order & Discipline settled among us, as well as over all those that seek to lay waste the Testimony of Truth, & cause the Offence of the Cross to cease.

1703.

1703 Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings being set up and Established by the Power & in the Wisdom of God, which is the Authority of those Meetings; All Friends are tenderly desired and Advised, Carefully to keep to, and in that Authority; And therein manage all the Business & Affairs of the Said Meetings, in Discharge of their Duty to God and his Church; And not expect or depend upon this Meeting for particular Direction from time to time how they shall proceed in the yearly management of the concerns of those Meetings relating to Truth's Testimony & Service; But wait for and depend upon the Power & Wisdom of God, for Counsel and direction in such Matters & Cases as may come before them; which will be to the great Ease of this Meeting, and dispatch of the proper concerns thereof. — And let the Man's part, and natural Wisdom and Attainments be subject to the Power & Spirit of God, which will truly edify the Body

1703 in Love, Righteousness and Peace, — And if any decline
 Such as ^{decline to be} ^{Dealt with.} from or Let fall any Branch of their Testimony, that Such may
 in the Wisdom and Authority of Truth be Dealt with & therein
 Mercy and Judgment Exercised in their proper Places.

1704.

1704 We tenderly Recommend and Desire that those Friends
 that are concerned in the Management of the Affairs of the
 Church, in the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, be careful to
 Act in the Wisdom of God, that they may be exemplary
 therein to those that are young: And that those that are
 Worthy to be Esteemed Members of those Meetings, be dili-
 gent in attending the Same; And that they will Encourage
 Such Young Men & Women, as they are sensible are qualified,
 and made Capable thro' Waiting upon God, to Serve Truth
 in your respective Meetings, that they may come up &
 Stand in the Life of Righteousness to be Serviceable in
 the Church, helpful to Ancient Friends, and fitted to Supply
 their Places as Such shall be Removed.

1705.

1705 It is Advised and desired, That in all Monthly and
 Quarterly Meetings, Friends take great Care to Manage the
 Affairs of Truth in a calm, Meek & Gentle Spirit, without
 " Heats, Discord and Contention; for if any seem contentious,
 " We have no such Custom in the Churches of God. 1 Cor: 11, 16.
 " And the Apostle's advice also Was, That Nothing should be
 " done through Strife or vain Glory; But in Lowliness of
 " Mind, let each esteem other better than themselves; And
 " do all things without Murmurings and disputings, —
 " Philip 2: 3 & 14." Which Apostolical Counsel and good Order
 We desire may be kept to, and Carefully Observed.

1706.

1706 Advised, To keep all Meetings, both those for divine
 Worship, and those for Good Order & Discipline in the Church

Meetings for Discipline

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1700 in the Name and Power of our Lord Jesus Christ; which divine Power We all ought to wait to feel to prepare and Sanctify Our Minds & Spirits, that We may be duly Qualified for Our Share & Part of our Service therein; and in the Same heavenly Power & Dominion Labour to keep out Strife & Contention, and Stand over all forward and Contentious Spirits, not in your Own, but in the Meek Spirit of the Lamb of God.
See Questions, page, —

1707.

1707 Our Women's Meetings, being Set up and Approved in the Love of God; and by His Wisdom & Power, & of Manifest Service & helpful in the Church; It is the Earnest Desire and Advice of this Meeting, they may be upheld & Encouraged where they are Settled, by Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, and that in Such Counties & Places where they are not, it be the Care of the Quarterly Meetings to Endeavour they may be Set up and Encouraged in proper & Convenient places, where they may be most Serviceable and helpful.

1709.

1709 This Meeting desires that the Accounts of the Prosperity of Truth, &c. that are brought in Writing from the several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting, be Signed at or by Order of the Quarterly Meetings.

1713.

1713 See Preachers, page, 270.

1715.

1715 Monthly Meeting to divide itself. Agreed, That No Monthly Meeting shall be Allowed to divide it self into Two Separate Monthly Meetings, either by reason of the Decrease of Love, or any Other Difference Among them in that Meeting, without the Consent or Concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting.

Elders & Overseers. And Let None Exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers, but Such who are Unblamable in Conversation & Example, free from Covetousness, Over-reaching, Oppression, and

Meetings for Discipline

- 1715 and Extortion. &c. Persons of Good Report, even among those who are without; following those things so earnestly Recommended by the holy Apostles Paul and Peter, Philip, 2: 3. Let nothing be done thro' Strife and vain Glory, but in Lowliness of Mind. Let each esteem Other better than themselves. 1 Pet. 5. 2, 3 —
- 1716 See the flock of God which is among You, taking the Oversight thereof, not by Constraint but willingly, not for filthy Lucre, but of a ready Mind, neither as being Lords over God's Heritage, but being Examples to the flock.

See Meetings for Worship, page, 200.

1717.

- 1717 Recommended, That Friends, but more especially Such as are Concerned in Meetings of Business, Do Labour to know their own Spirits Subjected by the Spirit of Truth, that thereby being Baptized into One Body, They may be truly One in the Foundation of their Love and Unity; And that therein they may all Labour to find a Nearness to each Other in Spirit, This being the true Way to a thorough Reconciliation, wherever there is or may have been any Difference of apprehension; thereby Friends will be preserved in that Sweetness of Spirit, that is and will be the Bond of True Peace throughout all the Churches of Christ.

1718.

- 1718 Decided, That Nothing be done thro' Strife, & Contention or vain Glory, murmuring or disputing, but in the Spirit of Meekness, Love & Humility, carry your selves toward one Another; And the younger Brethren cautious to know their places, as Living Members of One Body, and preserve a due regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719.

Meetings for Discipline

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1719.

1719 Advised, in a particular Manner when Assembled for the Affairs of the Church, That the Wrath of Man, which worketh not the Righteousness of God, may be kept down, together with all Exaltation of Spirit; and that on the contrary, the Meekness and Wisdom of the Lord may govern all Friends, and they in that carry on and perform the Affairs of the Church, whereby the many & great Evils which Attend Wrath and Exaltation will be suppressed and prevented.

And it is desired, that the Epistles & Accounts of the Affairs of Truth sent to this Meeting, from Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, may if possible be Read and Approved in the respective Meetings from whence they are sent, before they be signed on behalf of the Meetings.

And See Yearly Meeting, page, A A 2.

1722.

1722 Advised, To cementing in a very close and brotherly Fellowship. One with Another in the divine Spirit, and therein watch against all Occasion of Discord or Breach of Unity, in any Quarterly, Monthly or Particular Meeting, to the End Lion may continue a quiet Habitation, the Glory & Presence of God rest & remain on her, and the Spirit and Doctrine of the Gospel may be lived in and Maintained.

And We also Recommend, that Such Friends as are concerned in the Affairs of the Church, in the Quarterly, Monthly, or Particular Meetings, be careful to Act therein in the Wisdom of God, whereby they will be Exemplary to the Young, who may be Esteemed Members thereof and attend the Same; And as Such Young Persons are found to be qualified with a real Sense of Truth upon their Spirits, and Subjection thereunto, and thereby made capable to come up to a Service in their Respective Meetings; Friends are desired to encourage and bring them forward therein; whereby they may

Meetings for Discipline

1722 may be helpful to the Ancients, and brought up in a Life of Righteousness to walk and act to the praise of God's holy Name, and Standing in their Lot will supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings, thro' the same Spirit, when they are gone.

1725.

1725 Advised, that Friends in Meetings of Business, watch over their own Spirits, that no indolent Warmth get in, whereby the Understanding may be hurried and hindered from a regular Judgment on the Affairs before the Meeting.

1726.

1726 The former Advice in 1722, to Avoid all Occasions of Discord, Repeated. —

We earnestly recommend to You, whatsoever Your Places & Stations in the Church may be, That in the most weighty & serious Manner, You often call to remembrance, in all humility of Mind, what it was that brought us to be a People, and what is & will be that which will preserve us such; That the Foundation on which a True Christian is built, is the Spirit of Christ; Let this therefore Direct You in all things, both respecting Your private Conversation, & whatever You do for God in his Church; This is the only true means to preserve You holy and blameless in the One, as well as Serviceable & Useful in the Other; In this every one will have a single Regard to the Service that comes before him in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of Persons: — Hear the Causes between Your Brethren, and Judge Righteously between every Man and his Brother; and the Stranger that is with him. We shall not respect Persons in Judgment; But you shall hear the Small as well as the Great; You shall not be afraid of the Face of Man, for the Judgment is God's, Deut: 1. 16, 17. — And in the Management of such Affairs they will find their own Spirits rightly Seasoned and prepared for every Work

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1726 and Service to which they may be called; and all disorderly Proceedings arising from the Heat of Our own Spirits, will thereby be shut out; And thus the Church will be preserved, on Her ancient, solid and permanent Foundation, to the Glory of God, and her own Quiet & Comfort.

1727.

1727 Ordered, to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings, That tis the Mind of this Meeting, that all Minutes and Epistles from this Meeting be Entered & kept by them in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties or Meetings may have Recourse to them as Occasion shall Require.

This Meeting understanding it to have been the Ancient & Constant Sense of Friends in the Exercise of the Discipline that is Established amongst us, That any Person Denied by a Monthly Meeting is adjudged as Disowned by Friends, and to Stand and Remain in that State, till by his Repentance, or the Reversal of such Censure by a Superiour Meeting, he is Reconciled to Friends, or reinstated into Membership among them: With which this Meeting hath Unity, and therefore Ratifies & Confirms the Same.

See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 209.

1730.

1730 And for as much as divers Failures in respect to Insolvency have happened by Persons of Other Nations in the Church, This Meeting Declares it as their Judgment, That no Such Persons shall appear in Publick as Ministers, or sit or del in any Affair of Our Two Weeks, Monthly, or Quarterly Meetings, till they have given Such Meetings they belong to Satisfaction; ... And that Friends in their Respective Meetings take Due Care to Deal with all Such Persons in a regular Way, agreeable to the Discipline of the

Meetings for Discipline

1730 The Church already Established among Friends, by Publicly Manifesting their disunity with such Person or Persons, agreeable to the Nature and Circumstance of the Case.

It is recommended to all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to watch carefully over their Members, that so where any Root of Bitterness shall appear, that would bring forth Envy, — Strife, Emulation & Hatred, and thereby Our holy Unity in the Spirit be broken, They do use timely & earnest Endeavours to prevent and remove the Same, whereby We may be — Preserved a People to the Glory of God, and in that perfect Love and Unity which will Demonstrate us to be the Disciples of Christ.

1731.

1731 Advised, That Friends every where in an especial Manner, take Care to keep up the good Order and Discipline of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, in that Spirit of Love and Divine Wisdom in which they were at first Constituted, that therein every thing may be Managed to the Praise of God, and the Preservation of His Church & People within the Bounds and Limits of his Blessed Truth. This We are sensible has been a Means, under Divine direction, to keep many hurtful — things out of the Church, and therefore We are sincerely concerned that nothing may weaken the hands of Friends in this good Work, but that it may be carried on for the Support of Our Christian Testimony in all its Branches.

1732.

1732 Advised, That young Friends who are sober and well Inclined, be Encouraged to attend the Service of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings; And that all Friends in such Meetings wait to feel the Power of Truth, that their minds being Seasoned with the Virtue thereof, the wholesome Discipline of the Church may be Maintained and Continued from One generation to Another, for the help of Such as are Weak.

Meetings for Discipline

185

1732 And for the Dealing with all Persons Offending, we
 Dealing with offenders. Recommend, That Friends in their Said Meetings, be careful
 to Labour in the Spirit of Love & Meekness, regularly and im-
 partially, for the help and reclaiming of all Such; And after
 Such Labour of Love, there appears no ground to hope for
 Repentance, and the Case be of a Scandalous, reproachful Nature,
 that They proceed to Testify against Such Practices, and those
 who are Concerned therein.

not to be disowned without Dealing. That No Monthly Meeting disown or Testify against any
 of their Members, without first Dealing with Such Offenders, where
 Such Offenders can be conveniently met with or Spoke to.
 Papers to the Yearly Meeting, to be Signed, See
 Yearly Meeting page, 222.

1733.

1733 This Meeting being under a Weighty Concern & Exercise to
 Observe that the many wholesome Advice recommended from
 Year to Year, are in too many Places either Neglected or not
 Tithes &c. enough Practiced, particularly those against Tithes, Church
 Rates so called, and Priests Maintenance, also keeping up to
 Justice. Justice in Dealing; Plainness of Habit & Speech, and Several
 Plainness. Other Branches of our Christian Testimony: We therefore again
 Monthly Recommend to Friends in their Several Monthly Meetings to
 Monthly Meetings to appoint Friends to Visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant
 to former Advice, viz. in the Epistles 1708^x and 1729, here-
 with Sent you: And that Such Friends Labour faithfully in
 a Spirit of Love, and in the Meekness of Wisdom, to convince
 the Judgments of their respective Members of the Necessity
 of their coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable
 to our Christian Principle, that so the Several Branches of the
 Testimony which Truth hath given Our Ancestors and Us

x See the Paragraph 1708, under the Head Families, page 125.

See 1730 under the Head Families, page 125. & Reading-page.

Meetings for Discipline

1733 to bear may be Maintained unviolated: And We do—
 herewith also Send the Minutes of this Meeting of 1675⁺—
 1703[#], and 1706[#], so far as they are relative therunto, and—
 desire You may Record them in your Quarterly & Monthly Meeting
 Books, that you may have Recourse thereto on all Occasions:
 And We also Advise that the Same be Read frequently in
 Our Meetings of Business, that Friends may be fully inform-
 ed of them.

And, Dear Friends, as the Promotion of Piety & Charity is
 the End & Intent of Our Meetings for the Discipline of the
 Church, a weighty Concern remains upon us, That Friends
 be careful diligently to attend those Meetings, And when—
 there, to Act in the Wisdom given them of God, with a real
 & living Sense of Truth upon their Spirits, that so the Affairs
 of the Church may be Carried on in Brotherly Love, and
 in that Sweet, Calm & Christian Disposition of Mind, which
 tends to the Mutual Comfort & Edification One of another,
 and of the Church in general.

1735.

1735 Whereas the Number of Friends attending the Service
 of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the Discipline of
 the Church is but Small in some Places; We desire, that
 Younger Friends as they Observe to be Religious and Sober in
 their Conversation, to attend the Service of those Meetings;
 That so being inured to the Management of the Affairs
 of the Church in the Company of their Elders, they may be
 the better Qualified to Succeed them therein, and to
 Supply their Places and Service when removed.

1735.

X See 1675, under the head Tithe, p. 389.

1703, under the Same—p. 393.

1706, under the Same—p. 394.

Meetings for Discipline 187

1735.

- 1735 Propositions to the Yearly Meeting, to be Signed,
See Yearly Meeting, page, AAA.
See also, Discipline, page, 103 & 104.

1736.

1736

Youth
to be
encouraged
&c

And Dear beloved Friends & Brethren, We desire you to Encourage Such Youth as are Regular & Sober in their Conversation, to frequent Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, that they may see the Care which is taken for the Maintenance of Our Poor, and the preservation of Our Christian Discipline, And thereby become more useful in their respective Meetings, and to the Church in general: And We tenderly intreat that You would both by Word & Example, excite them to a diligent attendance of Our Meetings for Worship, not only on the First Days, but also on the Other Days of the Week.

to attend
Meetings
for worship

See Appeals, page, 3

1737.

1737

And Dear Friends, that the Affairs of Our Society may continue to be Managed in the Meek and Peaceable Wisdom of Truth, Let the Elders of Each Monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the Younger, and Consider their Conversations, Qualifications and Growth in the Truth, and Invite such as are Sober & Hopeful, to the Meetings for Business and the Affairs of the Church, that They may Learn and Improve in the Knowledge of the Discipline of the Church, and become Instrumental to the Service of God, His Truth and People.

1738.

1738

And as much as in you lies, take Care that the Business of your Monthly Meetings be Managed by Persons who are well grounded in the Principles of Truth, and beware of Committing the Management thereof to Such as know not their

Due.

Meetings for Discipline

- 1738 Own Spirits Seasoned by the work of Truth in themselves; But where you observe any young persons of a grave & Solid Deportment, and inclinable to be helpful in the Church, discourage them not, but Endeavour to bring them forward in the Service of Truth, according to their respective abilities for so weighty a work.

1740.

1740

See Records, page 299.

1741.

1741

See Notes, page 203.

1743.

1743

Agreed, That when a Quarterly Meeting have come to Monthly a Judgment respecting any Difference relative to any Meeting to Monthly Meeting belonging to them, and Notified the Same Submit to the Monthly Meeting belonging to them, and Notified the Same Judgment of in Writing to Such Monthly Meeting, the Said Monthly — the Quarterly Meeting ought to Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting. And if Such Monthly Meeting shall not be Satisfied therewith, then the Monthly Meeting may Appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment & Determination of their Quarterly Meeting.

In case
they do not
&c.

And if a Monthly Meeting shall Refuse to take the Advice, and Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting; and notwithstanding will not Appeal against the Determination of the Said Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; In such Case it is Our Opinion, the Quarterly Meeting shall be at Liberty, either to Dissolve such Monthly Meeting, or bring the Affair before the next or Succeeding Yearly Meeting.

And in Case a Quarterly Meeting shall Dissolve a Monthly Meeting, The Dissolved Monthly Meeting, or any part thereof in the Name of the Said Meeting, shall be

Meeting for Discipline 189

1723 be at Liberty to Appeal to the next, or Succeeding Yearly Meeting against such Dissolution: But if the Dissolved Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, or a part thereof in its behalf, shall not Appeal to the Yearly Meeting, It is then Our Opinion, that the Quarterly Meeting shall join the Members of the late Monthly Meeting to Such other Monthly Meeting, as they may think most Convenient; and until such time, shall take Care that no Inconvenience doth thereby Ensur to the Members of Such dissolved Meeting respecting any Branch of Our Discipline.

And if any of the Monthly Meeting to which the Quarterly Meeting shall join the whole or a part of the late Monthly Meeting, Do think themselves aggrieved; They shall be at Liberty to Appeal against the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; And until such Appeal is heard and Determined, the Friends added by the Quarterly Meeting to them, shall be deemed their Members.

And Dear Friends, in the Love of Christ, We earnestly beseech and Exhort You, to Watch diligently over the Flock of God, and to Deal in due Time, and in a Spirit of Christian Love & Tenderness, with All Such as walk disorderly Among You, in Order to Reclaim & Restore them by brotherly Admonition & Counsel; And where after patient Waiting, you find that Your Christian Labour of Love hath not its desired Effect; you Neglect not to Testify against and Disown Such Persons; And thereby prevent the Reproach and Dishonour which may be brought upon Our holy Profession thro' their Means, and that the End & Design of Friends in Settling wholesome Discipline among us may be Answered; The Want of this has as We apprehend brought great Difficulties on Some Meetings; For We think It both unreasonable and dishonourable

Meetings for Discipline

17A3 dishonourable, when persons apply to Monthly Meetings on account of Marriage, or for relief in case of Necessity, to Object to them then such Offences, as the Meeting through Neglect of their Own Duty, do long before suffer to pass unapproved.

See Preachers, page, 276.

17A4.

17A4 In a Proposition for the Encouragement of Women's Meetings for Discipline; which this Meeting taking into serious Consideration, that it is the duty of the several Churches to encourage the same, yearly Meetings, and Monthly Meetings, in each Monthly Meeting, carefully to see the same put in Practice; viz: 1675, 1691, and 1697.

(which see at Length in pages 175 & 179.)

See Law, — page 108.

See Marriage — page 105, 106.

See Talebearing — page —

17A5.

17A5 And Dear Friends, We find it Our Concern to Repeat the Exhortation We gave last year, That Friends in all Places would Encourage the Service of the Meetings of faithful Women, and That the Quarterly Meetings would help & assist Such Women Friends in Setting up Monthly Meetings, wherein they may wait for divine Wisdom to give proper Advice to those of their Own Sex.

And that proceedings in Relation to Marriage be laid before Such Meetings of Women, and the Clearings and Conversation of the Persons concerned Enquired into by them; which Method, We apprehend will render Our Grace and Solid Women, Helpmeets to the Brotherhood in the Discipline of the Church, and conduce to the Edification and Comfort of the Body.

Meetings for Discipline 191

1755 And Dear Friends, We Desire that Your Several
 School Monthly Meetings, where any School Masters or Mistresses
 Masters or of Our Profession may reside, would not be Wanting to
 Mistresses. Admonish them, as much as in them lies, to bring up the
 Children of Friends, Committed to their Care, in Plainness of
 Speech, Behaviour and Apparel, agreeable to Our Profession;
 And that Such of them as have Boarders in their Families,
 would frequently call them together, and accustom them to a
 Solemn Reading of the holy Scriptures, and to press & excite
 them to the Observation of the Christian Precepts therein
 contained; And that they themselves walk before their
 Scholars as Examples of that Plainness and Simplicity
 which they recommend.

See Appeals, — page, 11.

1757

1757 See Discipline — page, 105.

See Marriage — page, 106.

1758

1758 See the Same — page, 107.

1751

1751 See Discipline — page, 107.

Meeting for Sufferings.

Concerning Meeting for Sufferings

1774

1774

This Meeting being under a weighty concern for Friends who are or may be under sufferings and difficulties from the powers of this world on account of our Religious Testimony, do appoint our Friends — a Committee who are desired, to take Cognizance of all grievances arising amongst us, wherein any friend or friends may be affected, either Person Property or in regard to our Christian Testimony *forbearance*, and to advise, counsel and assist as best Wisdom may direct; and they are desired to meet once a Month, or oftener, if need be; that some of said Committee constitute a Meeting, which may transact the Business thereof, and that any aggrieved Friend or friends may apply to them either in a collective or separate Capacity, as the circumstances of the case may require and that said Committee in a meeting capacity, draw on the Treasures of this meeting for the Monies that shall be necessary for the purpose *forbearance*, who is ordered to pay the same. And that this Committee view and judge of Manuscripts proposed to be printed and correspond with the Meeting for Sufferings at Philadelphia or elsewhere.

Meetings for Worship 199

N^o 22. Concerning Meetings for Worship.

1675.

1675 That as it hath been Our Care and Practice from the beginning, that an Open Testimony for the Lord should be born, and a publick Standard for Truth & Righteousness upheld in the Power & Spirit of God, by Our Open and known Meetings, against the Spirit of Persecution that in all Ages hath sought to Lay wast Gods Heritage: And that only thro Faithfulness, Constancy & Patience, Victory hath been & is Obtained; So it is Our Advice, and Judgment, That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up these publick Testimonies in their Respective Places, and not decline, forsake or Remove their Publick Assemblies because of times of Sufferings, as Worldly, Fearful & Politick professors have done, because of Informers and the like Persecutors; For Such Practices are not Consistent with the Nobility of Truth, and therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ.

1678.

1678 And by how much the more it is a Day of Tryal and an hour of Temptation, Forsake ye not the Assembling of yourselves together, but by so much the more be Zealous & Diligent in keeping all your Meetings; both Publick Meetings and your Men's and Women's Meetings, in the Lords everlasting Power by which they were Set up, And as you are found diligent & Steadfast in the Work of the Lord, the God of Peace will surely beat down Satan under your feet, and plentifully shed into all your bosoms, your Patience & Perseverance, with the durable Blessings, Peace & Joy of that Kingdom which was before the World began, and that never shall have End.

1689.

1689 Let every One be watchful against an Earthly Spirit getting up in any, for that will Choke the good Seed, and bring

Meetings for Worship

1089 bring forth a Slighting or Neglecting your Testimony in your First Days and Week Days Meetings, and bring a Decay of your Strength and Zeal for God & His Truth, and bring a Weakness upon you; by reason whereof such will not be able to stand in an hour of Temptation.

1091.

1091 His tenderly advised, for the Lord's sake, and his Blessed Name and Truth's sake, that Friends be diligent in keeping their Week-Day Meetings as duly as on First-Days, in his Worship & Service.

1096.

1096 Agreed, that Friends be reminded that Live distant from Meetings, to keep Meetings in their Families to wait upon God, that their Children and Families may come to be Seasoned in their Spirits by the Truth and the Lord's power, & that they may have his Blessing upon their Families.

1097.

1097 Advised. Duly to keep up Week-Day Meetings.

1706.

1706 See Meetings for Discipline, page 118.

1715.

1715 Advised, that all Friends be careful to Attend Meetings for Worship and Business, at the Times & hours appointed, as near as they possible may: And not to detain Meetings Out of Season.

1716.

1716 Advised, to have a Godly Care & Judging of Contradicting One another in public Meetings or Showing any Marks or Signs of Division therein among Ministers or Others; that being of a very pernicious consequence to bring Blame or Contempt upon the Ministry: a great hurt to Our Youth & Others.

Meetings for Worship

201

1718.

1718

Advised, That all Friends be Exemplary in Seasonable and Constant keeping to Week Day Meetings, as well as First Days, and Such as have Children & Families, in bringing them as much as may be with them, that they may be good Examples to the Flock therein, and not by their Indifferency & Negligence be a Stumbling Block in the way of Others.

1723.

1723

Advised, That Friends keep their Children to a Constant Seasonable and Orderly frequenting as well of Week Days as of First Day Meetings; Instructing them to have their Minds Stayed in the Divine Gift, to wait upon the Lord therein, to receive a Portion with them of His Spiritual Favours; that they from the tendering Virtue of the holy Spirit, may be Engaged in Heart & Mind to Walk worthy of so great Grace; And in an holy Zeal to honour God, Submit to bear the Cross, Endure the Shame, and become publick Witnesses for him amongst the Sons of Men.

See Preachers, page, 271, 272.

1724.

1724

Advised, That Friends, the Meetings are Sometimes held in Silence, would not Neglect their Attendance, at those Meetings; For the hungry Souls will Labour for Bread, and the thirsty for the Water of Life, and the diligent hand will make Rich in that Treasure that is of an Enduring Substance.

1725.

1725

In your Religious Meetings for the worship of God, both on the First and Other Days of the Week, be diligent in waiting upon him in his Spirit, whereby you may renew your Strength, and Witness Him your Sufficient help for
sun.

Meetings for Worship

1725 Sure many of us have Cause thankfully to remember his early Visitations in the Assemblies of His People, where He broke in upon Our hearts with his Power and Love, and did in the needful time Administer Help, Comfort, & Counsel, whereby We have in the renewings thereof, been upheld in a faithful Testimony, and in the Discharge of Our Duty to Him.

1729.

1729 We again Recommend the Advice given in the Year 1723.

1732.

1732 Advised, That all Friends who are Masters and Heads of Families, be very careful in attending and bringing their Children & Servants to Meetings, both on First Days and Other days of the Week.

1733.

1733 And as the First Day of the Week is Set apart for the publick Worship of Almighty God, 'Tis Our earnest Advice, That Friends Exhort and Encourage their Children and Families to be diligent in attending Meetings for Worship, and to behave themselves there with Seriousness and Gravity, as becomes the professors of Christianity, and to be Regardful of the good Counsel & Admonitions of those whose Mouths the Lord may be pleased to open in the work of the Ministry; And that Parents would be Exemplary to their Children in closely attending Meetings, not only on the First Days, but as much as in them lies, on Other Days of the Week also, in which respect We cannot but with grief Observe, too many appear Remiss.

Meetings for Worship

203

1730.

1730
Caution
against
formality.

And Dear Friends, we desire that you would. Excite & Stir up your Children to a diligent Attending the First Day and Week Day Meetings, and be Exemplary Yourselves therein, not in a meer formal & customary Attendance, but in a Serious & diligent Waiting upon the Lord; For as Formality in Worship occasioned the Lord to Complain of his People in Days of Old, That They drew near to Him with their Mouths, and with their Lips did honour Him, but had removed their Hearts far from him. Isa: 29: 13. So we have reason to fear that the same formality has been one Cause of that great Declension from the Purity & Spirituality of Gospel Worship, which is too Apparent among many of the Professors of Christianity.

And in as much as it hath pleased the Lord to Concern some amongst us, as Instruments in his hand to Travel to & fro, for the Preaching and Spreading of the Gospel; We Advise that where Meetings for Worship are Settled, when any Such are concerned to Visit you; you would give Notice thereof to your sober & well Inclined Neighbours, That They may have an opportunity to hear the Testimony of Truth declared:... a Means which the Lord hath been often pleased to make use of, for the gathering many out of the World unto himself, through the power of the Word of Life faithfully preached.

1735.

1735 As it hath pleased the Lord in His great Mercy, and Goodness to favour the faithful among his people, not only in such publick Assemblies as these, but also in their small retired Meetings in the Country every where with the lifting up of the Light of his Countenance upon them, by which they are greatly Encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name, and as He shall move
any

Meetings for Worship

1735 any thereunto, to Speak One unto Another to their Mutual
to be diligent Edification & Comfort; We take this Opportunity to renew
in attending Our former Advice, That Friends in their Several Coun-
Meetings for ties and Places, be diligent in attending Religious —
Worship.

Meetings for the Worship of God, not only on First Days
but on other Days of the Week, and as near as may be
at the Time appointed, there being by Accounts brought
into this Meeting from some Places, a great Neglect in
this respect, which we have reason to believe is owing
to a being Overcharged with the Cares of this Life, the
Deceitfulness of Riches, and the Love of other things,
which Chokes the good Seed, so that Love to Religion
and the Worship of God Decays and grows cold.

1736.

1736 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 187.

1738.

1738 See Preachers, page, 175.

1739.

1739 The Advice in 1738, again Recommended;
See the Printed Epistle

Morning Meeting of Ministers

209

N^o 23. Concerning the Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1075.

1075

See Sufferings, page, 371.

1097.

1097

See Yearly Meeting, page, Δ39.

1700.

1700

See Books — page, 28.

1707.

1707

See Yearly Meeting, page, ΔΔ0.

1723.

1723

It is the unanimous Agreement of this Meeting, that it does not belong to the Morning Meeting, or any Other Meeting of Ministers, to Disown any Minister or other Person: But that the sole Right of so doing belongs to the Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings. —
See further, page, 211.

1727.

1727

A Proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire, relating to the Extending a Care in Friends to Young Ministers &c. being Read; This Meeting desires all Monthly Meetings to appoint Serious, discreet and judicious Friends, who are not Ministers, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and Advise Others, as they in the Wisdom of God see Occasion: And where there are Meetings of Ministering Friends, Such Friends so Chosen be admitted as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and Act therein for the good Purposes aforesaid.

1732.

1732

See Books, page, 29.

1735.

Morning Meeting of Ministers

1735.

1735 It is Our unanimous Sense and Opinion, That the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministers, Have a Right as they See Meet, in the Wisdom of Truth, to Advise, Exhort & Rebuke, any of their Members, or any Ministers who may Travel in the Work of the Ministry, as Occasion may require without being Accountable for the Same to any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting.

Meeting of
Ministers
may Advise
Rebuke
&c.

But if any Member of the Said Meetings, or any other Minister, should at any time be overtaken with a fault, and the Same be under the Cognizance of the Morning, or other Meeting of Ministers, and the Monthly Meeting to which such Person belongs shall also Deal with Him or Her for the Same, that then on Notice from Such Monthly Meeting, that they have taken the Case under their Care and Serious Consideration, all proceedings of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers - against such Minister or Elder shall be finally Stopt.

Power to
disown any

And We are of Opinion that the Morning Meeting, or other Meeting of Ministers, have no Power to disown any Minister or other Person in any Capacity whatsoever, the Sole Right of So doing belonging to Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And it is Our Sense & Opinion, That Such Discreet & Judicious Friends who are deputed Elders by the respective Monthly Meetings of London, are to be allowed Members of the Morning Meeting, tenderly to Encourage and help Young Ministers, and Advise Others as they shall See Meet, in the Wisdom of God, for the good Purposes Specified in the Minute of the Yearly Meeting 1727.

Second Days Morning Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting... See Yearly Meeting, page.

Morning Meeting of Ministers 211

1723

Part of the Minute in 1723. Omitted, viz.:

— And that no Persons Name from and after the Eighth Day of the Seventh Month next, be Entered in the Morning Meeting Book of Ministering Friends, as a Minister, till He or She produces a Certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which He or She shall belong.

1781

1781

The Select ~~Meeting~~ yearly Meeting, proposing to this Meeting that the said Select Meeting may begin for the future on fourth day, at the 10th hour in the week the yearly Meeting is to be held; accordingly it is approved of, and directed to be held at that time.

Mourning

215

N^o 2^d. Concerning Mourning.

1717.

1717 According to the primitive Innocency & Simplicity of Friends, It is the Advice of this Meeting, That no Friends imitate the World in any distinction of Habit or otherwise, as Marks or Tokens of Mourning for the Dead.

1718.

1718 Advice against Men and Women imitating the World in Making a Shew of Mourning for the Dead, in their Apparel.

172^d.

172^d A Caution against imitating the vain Custom of Wearing or giving Mourning, and all Extravagant Expences about the Interment of the deceased.

17^d5.

17^d5 And whereas a Custom, which of late prevailed with some among us, of Wearing Mourning, at the Funerals of their Relations, Contrary to the Ancient Practice, and repeated Advice of Friends; 'Tis desired, that Friends every where would discourage such a Custom; And such Publick Friends whose Company may be desired at Funerals, are requested to signify to the persons concerned, the Uneasiness & Difficulty they are put under by reason of such Appearances, which by their presence they may be supposed to Countenance.

210

The first of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

The second of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

The third of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

The fourth of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

The fifth of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

The sixth of the three is the most common and is found in all the countries of the world. It is the most common of the three and is found in all the countries of the world.

Concerning Memorials -

1760 It is recommended, to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to appoint suitable Friends to collect Memorials of the living services and dying sayings of Ministers, Elders, and other Friends, whose lives were remarkable for true piety and faithfulneſs, with the time of their Birth and death, as near as may be, with a diſtinction between Ministers, Elders and others, and where they lived, and that ſuch collections be inſpected by each Quarterly and Monthly Meeting and from thence ſend them up to this Meeting to be recorded.

Free Masons.

Concerning Free Masons.

1772.

1772

As to the consistency of the Members of our Society, joining themselves with those called Free Masons, we have deliberated upon, and according to our present judgment, think it is not consistent with our Religious profession, and advise that Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, dissuade their Members therefrom, and if any continue therein, or join therewith, contrary to the advice herein contained, that they be dealt with, as such who refuse the advice of Friends.

N^o 25. Concerning Importing Negroes.
1727.

1727 It is the Sense of this Meeting, That the Importation of Negroes from their Native Country and Relations by Friends, is not a commendable nor allowable Practice: — and that Practice is censured by this Meeting.

1760.

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, it was Agreed and Concluded, that the following Paragraph from the Yearly Meeting Epistle from London, A. D. 1758, should be here Inserted.

We fervently Warn all in Profession with us, that They be Careful to avoid being any way Concerned, in reaping the unrighteous Profits arising from that Iniquitous Practice of Dealing in Negroes and Other Slaves, whereby in the Original Purchase One Man Sells to Another, as he doth the Beast that perishes, without any better pretention or property in him, than that of Superior Force, in direct Violation of the Gospel Rule, which teacheth every One to do as they would be done by, and to do good unto All, being the reverse of that Covetous Disposition which furnishes Encouragement to those poor Ignorant People to perpetuate their Savage Wars, in Order to supply the demands of this most unnatural Traffick, whereby great Numbers of Mankind, Free by Nature, are Subjected to Inextricable Bondage, and which hath often been Observed to fill their Possessors with Haughtiness & Tyranny, Luxury and Barbarity, corrupting the Minds and debasing the Morals of their Children, to the unspeakable Perjudice of Religion and Virtue, and the Exclusion of that holy Spirit of Universal Love, Meekness & Charity which is the inexchangeable Nature and the Glory of true Christianity; We therefore —

Negroes

1100 therefore can do no less than with the greatest Earnestness
 Impress it upon Friends every where, that they Endeavour
 to keep their hands clear of this unrighteous gain of
 Oppression.

1769

1769

It is recommended that Friends who have Slaves
 in possession, to treat them with kindness, impress God's
 fear on their minds, promote their attending, places of
 Religious worship, and give those that are young, at
 least so much learning that they may be capable of
 reading.

N^o 26. Concerning Oaths.

1693.

1693 Advised, That Our Christian Testimony be faithfully
maintained against the Burthen and Imposition of Oaths.

No 27. Concerning Orphans.
1706.

1706 Recommendd. That Friends who leave Children young, especially those who have Estates for them, Do in their Wills appoint faithful Friends to be Guardians to them, till they come to the Age of Twenty One Years: And that Monthly Meetings take Care such Guardians do Discharge their Trust with Justice & Uprightness, as They will answer it at the great Day; And that Orphans be Admonished to be Subject to the Wills of their deceased Parents, as the said Meetings shall see Cause.

No 28. Concerning Applying to
Parliament

1695.

1695 Recommended, to the Several Quarterly Meetings to take Care that timely Application be made in their respective Counties, by Sober discreet Friends, to Members of Parliament before their coming up to Sit, giving them Right Information, and Intreating them, that in their Places, they would be pleased to use their Endeavours and Interest for the Ease of Our Suffering Friends, when presented to them in Parliament. — This Method having been found of Service in some Places, tis desired it may be Observed.

Persecution

235

N^o 29. Concerning Persecution.

1075.

1075 It is Our Advice and Judgment, That all Friends gathered
Not to decline publick assemblies for fear of Persecution in the Name of Jesus, keep up those Publick Testimonies of
Meeting together in their respective Places, and not decline
forsake or Remove their publick Assemblies because of Sufferings, as worldly fearful & politic Professors have done.
because of Informers and the like Persecutors; For such like
Practices are not Consistent with the Nobility of the Truth,
and therefore not to be Owned in the Church of Christ.—
See Meetings for worship, page, 199.

1078.

1078 See Meetings for worship, page, 199.

1703.

1703 See Sufferings, page, 375.

1707.

1707 Advised, That all walk with much Circumspection, Fear
& Humility before the Lord, under the Sense of Our present
outward Liberty, and the temporal Mercies that have for
Some Years attended the Same; That Our Love and Service
for the Lord, and His holy Truth & Church may have the pre-
ference of our worldly Business in our thoughts, lest we
should incur the Lord's displeasure, for an ungrateful Neg-
lect of our Duty & thankfulness to Him; For it has been
sometimes the Lord's Method to deprive his people of the fa-
vours they abuse, though He is a God slow to anger, and of
long suffering towards his Children.

N^o 30. Concerning Plainness in Habit & Speech, &c.

1675.

1675

See Conversation, page, 59.

1688.

1688

See Conversation, page, 59.

1691.

1691

Advised, That Friends take care to keep to Truth & Plainness in Language, Habit, Deportment, and Behaviour, that the Simplicity of Truth in these things may not wear out nor be lost in our Behaviour Days, nor in our Posterity: - To avoid Pride & Immodesty in Apparel, and Extravagant Wigs, and all other vain & superfluous Fashions of the World.

1697.

1697

It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends every where Dealing, keep to Plainness both in Speech Habit and Dealing, and not to Launch too far into the things of this World, by overcharging themselves with Trading and Debts beyond their abilities to Discharge; But keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things, that none may be ensnared & defiled thereby.

1700

1700, & 1701.

1701

Advised, That a Godly Care be taken for the due Education of Friends Children in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, and in Plainness & Modest Apparel, and in Truth Language: And that all Parents be good Examples to them accordingly.

1703.

1703

This Meeting being under a deep Sense, that Pride, the vain Customs and Fashions of the World, prevail over some of our Profession, particularly in Excess of Apparel and

1703 *and Leviticus*: I do earnestly recommend that all who make
Apparel Profession of the Truth, take Care to be Exemplary in what
Leviticus they wear, and what they use, so as to avoid the vain-
 Customs of the World, and all Extravagance in Colour &
 Fashion, and keep themselves in respect thereof Spottless &
 blameless, adorning their Profession in all Modesty & Sobriety.
 1708.

1708 *Parents* Let Parents be Exemplary to their Children, -
Parents in keeping out of the vain Fashions, Customs and Pride of the
Exemplary World, by adorning themselves Modestly and in Plainness ac-
 cording to the Simplicity of Truth received by us in the
 beginning.

1709.

1709 Let all be Examples to their Children in Wisdom, Moderation,
 Plainness in Language & Habit; and not Examples only, but
Parents also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their
Children hurt either inwardly or outwardly, neither providing for them
 costly and gaudy Attire, unbecoming Headings, nor letting
 them have Money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the Aged remember and the Youth know that when
 apparent Signs of the Plague of Leprosy appeared on the
 Walls in the House of Israel, Thence the Care of the Priests
 was it the Law to have the Houses Cleansed, and the Lepers
 also: And Surely Christ's Priesthood should not fall short
 of their Care, to endeavour to Stop and remove the manifest
 Signs of the Leprosy of the Great Sin of Pride, and all
 Unlawfulness of Thoughts; And therefore Let all come
 be earnestly Stirred up to sincere Obedience to the Light
 of Christ our great High Priest, that he may cleanse the
 hearts and houses of that growing Plague, which leads
 to the Ruin of Families and Nations.

1712.

Plainness

201

1712.

1712

Advised, That None despise the Day of Small things, or Turn aside from the Plainness, Simplicity and Life of the Truth, into the Words, Ways, Customs and Fashions of the World, which are vain, and will perish with the using; God having redeemed his People out of the Same, through His Righteous Judgments in their inward Parts; Knowing that whatsoever hath been Condemned and Overturned thereby, is never to be Built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715.

1715

follow
the
examples
of holy
men & women.

extravagant
wigs.

Advised, That all Friends both Male & Female, be careful that their Adorning be that of a Meek & Quiet Spirit, which in the Sight of God is of great Price, even as the Holy Men & Women of Old professing Godliness with good Works were adorned; Oh that our Young Men & Women would follow their Examples. But to our great Grief we find too many of our Young Men, instead of observing that Gospel Exhortation, To be Sober Minded, have given Way to Lightness and Vanity, and the pernicious Effects thereof have Led them into pride, so that some have Cut off good heads of hair, and put on Long Extravagant & gay Wigs, which they that are not of Profession with us see as a Mark of Deviation from our Primitive Plainness.

And likewise, that our Young Women would Cease from that unseemly and immodest Appearance of their high heads, and wearing their Gowns set up like the proud Fashion mongers of the World.

anger
lying
the
yoke
of
Christ

Certainly both Males & Females who take such undue Measures, lying under the Yoke of Christ, and if they do not Repent and Relieve, they will thereby Suffer great Loss: But in the Bowels of Christian Compassion, we warn and exhort all such to Come into that Subjection, that the Yoke of Christ may be their Delight, and their souls may reap the comfortable Fruits of bearing the Yoke.

Am

1715
 Caution against False Liberty.
 Pride.
 Meat Marriages.
 Flattering Titles.
 &c.

And Caution given against false Liberty and Sinful Ease in the Flesh, which is too apt to grow among some professing the same Truth with us, in this our Day, for want of Due Watchfulness and Obedience to the Light of Christ, & keeping Low and Humble before the Lord, by reason whereof many Evils get in amongst us, viz^t Pride of Apparel, making mixt Marriages with Persons of contrary Judgment, Bowing and giving flattering Titles to Men, the saying Ye or You to a single Person, and calling the Days of the Week & the Months by Heathen Names, to the declining of Truth's Testimony, — and giving Occasion of Stumbling to such as are seeking after the Knowledge of the same as it is in Jesus.

1718.

1718
 Testimony against undue Liberty.
 vain fashions.
 Gold Chains
 necklaces
 Gold watches.
 Naked Necks
 & Breasts
 hooped petticoats.

Testimony against an undue Liberty which too many under the Profession of Truth run into to the great grief of faithful Friends, by reason whereof the Way of Truth is evil spoken of, and Our holy Profession greatly reproached, by many Men amongst us putting on Extravagant Wigs, and wearing their Hats & Cloaths after the vain fashions, unbecoming the Gravity of Religious People: And too many Women decking themselves with gaudy & costly Apparel, Gold Chains, Lockets, Necklaces, and Gold watches exposed to open View, which shows more of Pride and Ostentation than for Use & Service; besides their vain Imitation of that Immodest Fashion of going with Naked Necks and Breasts, & wearing hooped petticoats, Inconsistent with that Modesty which should adorn their Sex, and did adorn the holy Women of Old.

Furniture
 Speech.

And in like Vanity of Mind divers amongst us run into great Extravagancies in the Furniture of their Houses: — together with a great Declension in some of both Sexes from that Plainness and Simplicity of Speech so constantly used in holy Scripture, and recommended and practiced by Our Ancient Friends as well as by the faithful in this Day.

1718

Now this Meeting having been under a deep Sense of the Love of Christ, doth earnestly recommend the laying aside of those things before Mentioned, and whatsoever Else is a hurt to themselves, and brings a Reproach upon us; For certainly it does not become the Gravity of our Profession, or any under it, to run into every New vain fantastick Mode or Fashion; But to keep to that which is Modest, decent, plain and useful; And therefore Friends every where are desired to stand witnesses against these and all other things that tend to Lay waste our Ancient Testimony.

not to adorn Children with gaudy apparel. And that Parents in the tender Years of their Children would not adorn them with gaudy Apparel, which Practice cannot come from the Spirit that leads out of the vain Customs of the World; But must proceed from Pride in the Parents; And Children being led into such Vanities and Fineries; Come gradually to be in Love with them, which is apt to Increase with their Years to that Degree, until it may be found very difficult to reclaim them.

1722.

1722

It is evident that the Simplicity and distinguishing Plainness of our holy Profession is too much Lost amongst us, Respecting Language, Apparel and Behaviour; We Therefore earnestly Exhort all to keep under the Power of the Cross of Christ, which will Crucify to the World and the Vanities of it, and bring up in a true Life of Self Denial, agreeable to the Gospel, and Example of our Elders.

1725.

1725 And for as much as a true Christian Practice and every Branch is the Fruit & Effect of the inward Sanctification of the heart by the Spirit of Christ, for which We are frequently to wait on Him in all Humility & Lowliness of Mind; We tenderly Advise

1735 Advise, that every thing tending to Obstruct or Divert the Minds either of Children or those of more advanced Years from this good Exercise, may be carefully avoided and taken out of the Way: And it being evident that the Glory & Vanity of the World, and the Pleasures and Diversions of it, are of this Nature and Tendency: We therefore Advise, That all Parents & Masters in the first place be good Examples to their Children & Families in an humble and circumspect Walking, and with all Plainness of Habit & Speech, which is agreeable to the Cross of Christ, the Examples of our Ancient Friends, and the frequent Advices of this Meeting; And also that they be very careful not to Indulge their Children in the Use and Practice of things Contrary therunto; For we are sensible that by such habits, of how little Moment soever some may think them, the tender Minds of Children while very young being lifted up and drawn aside from the Simplicity of Truth, a Foundation is early laid for those undue Liberties so justly complained of; For a Love & Delight in such things imprudently Indulged at first, grows up with them and becomes strengthened more & more into confirmed Habits; and thus some have become Enemies to the Cross of Christ, and forsaken & opposed the Way of Truth, which possibly might have been prevented by Parents doing their Duty, in being good Examples, and not cherishing Seeds of Vanity and folly in their Children; but on the contrary prudently discouraging every appearance of Evil in them; which necessary Duty we earnestly Recommend to their serious Consideration and practice.

1736.

1736

See Conversation, page 2.

1737.

1737

See Families, page 126.

1739.

1739

'Tis also Our Concern to Exhort all Friends, both Men & Women, to watch against the growing Sin of Pride, and to beware of Adorning themselves in a manner disagreeable to the Plainness & Simplicity of the Truth we make profession of: Oh! that they would duly consider that Severe Reproof which the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the Haughty Daughters of Zion, Isaiah, 3. where he describes even the particularities of their Dressings & Ornaments so displeasing to the Lord, and drawing down his judgments upon them. If those things in that time were so offensive in the Eyes of the Lord, how much more are they so now in a People Professing the Plainness & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ recommends. — I will saith the Apostle Paul, that Women adorn themselves in modest Apparel with Shamefacedness & Sobriety, not with Tressed-hair or pearls or Gold or costly Array, but which becometh Women Professing Godliness with good Works, 1 Tim: 2. 9. 10. where he plainly sheweth that such Adornings are contrary to the Profession of Godliness. — The Apostle Peter is also very full in his Exhortations on this Subject, whose Adorning saith he, Let it not be that outward Adorning of plaiting the Hair, and of wearing of Gold, and of putting on of Apparel, but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptable, even the Ornament of a meek & quiet Spirit which is in the Sight of God of great Price, for after this manner in the old time the holy Women also who trusted in God adorned themselves. 1 Pet: 3. 3. 4. 5. plainly intimating that those who of old were holy & trusted in God, placed not their Delight in such Ornaments. — Oh that you would weigh & consider these things; Let your Moderation be known unto all Men, and grieve not the holy Spirit of God, but be ye followers of Him as dear Children walking Circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the Time because the Days are evil.

1739.

1735.

1733

And whereas We have with deep Concern Observed. by Accounts from divers places, that there is a great Declension from that Simplicity in Speech, Behaviour and Apparel which Our worthy Ancestors were led into, and as we find by Experience that the same Spirit of Truth which led our Ancients to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ, will still lead in the same path all who submit to its Guidance, We earnestly Intreat Friends every where to watch over themselves in these respects; And that Parents & Masters of Families — would Labour to Convince those under their Care how inconsistent the gratifying a Vain & Worldly Mind is with a Christian life, and the Plainness & Purity of the Gospel, The Example of Our blessed Saviour and his Followers, and of virtuous and holy Men in all Ages, ought to make a due Impression on every considerate Mind, and especially on Such as have had the Advantage of an Education in a Plainness agreeable to Such Example.

Let not any Such as degenerate in these respects, Excuse their own Weakness, under a pretence of the Misconduct of Some who have appeared Outwardly Plain: an Objection of very little weight, for did they rightly Consider — they would clearly See, that the very Reason why Deceivers sometimes put on Plain Apparel is because true Men have been accustomed to wear it.

We also tenderly Advise, That Friends, Especially those who should be Exemplary to Others under their Care, take heed that they Exercise Plainness of Speech without Respect of Persons, in all their converse, among Men, and not bask their Testimony by a cowardly Compliance, varying their Language according to their Company: A Practice of very ill Example to our Observing Youth

1713 Youth, and rendering those who use it contemptible & looked upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with whom they so comply. Such a Mean Spirited Practice seems to be cautioned against by the Apostle, where he advises, 1 Tim. 2: 8. " That the Deacons be grave, not double Tongued: ——— a caution plainly importing that Double-Tonguedness is inconsistent with the Gravity of the Gospel.

11th 31. Concerning the Poor.

1693.

1693

Advised, That if any Poor Friends for the Future should incline to Remove themselves and Families to this City, that before they unsettle themselves, they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong for Advice and Counsel; And that such Meetings do rather advise them to be Contented in their Stations & Places, where Provisions & Accommodations may be much Easier & Cheaper obtained than at London; Or if permitted by Certificate to Remove, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they Come, do take Care to Supply their Necessities, that the Friends of London may not be over Charged for the future.

1694.

1694

Advised, That Care be taken that Poor Friends Children, may freely partake of Education in order to Apprenticeship.

1696.

1696

Advised, That Such among Friends as are Endued with plenty of outward Substance be timely and tenderly Advised to do Good therewith in their Day & Generation, especially with Regard to the Poor; that the Tokens of their Charity may Commend their Memorial, and be good Precedents to Generations to Come.

That the Rich remember the Poor, and Do good in their Life time, and if they make any Settlement for the use of the Poor, to take Advice and Counsel, that it may be Done so that Friends may not be Deprived of their Charity, and may be Firm and according to Law.

1698.

1698

As to the Endeavouring to procure an Act or Acts for Employing -

1698 Employing and Relief of the Poor amongst us, and Building a Workhouse or Workhouses, It's Referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to proceed as the respective Counties shall give Directions to them, and shall send up Friends to Assist in Soliciting for the Said Act or Acts from each County if they See meet.

1701.

1701 'Tis desired that No Poor Friends Children may want any Necessary Learning.

1709.

1709 Advised and Desired, That where Friends want Ability in the World, their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings assist them, that the Children of the Poor may have due help of Education, Instruction and Necessary Learning; And that Children both of the Rich and Poor, may be early provided with industrious Employments that they may not grow up in Idleness, Looseness and Vice; but that being thus seasoned with the Truth, Sanctified of God, Taught our holy Self-denying way, They may appear a Reputation to Our holy Profession, the Comfort of their honest Parents, Instrumental to the Glory of God, and the Good of the Generation coming on.

1710.

1710 Agreed, That if any Poor Friends or Friends for the time to come should incline to Remove themselves and to have Families from the Limits & Compass of One Quarterly or Certificate Monthly Meeting to Another, that before they Unsettle themselves, they Apply themselves to such Meetings to which they belong for Advice and Counsel; Of which the Said Meeting to which they Apply do Approve, they then give a Certificate Signifying such Meetings Consent to their Removal.

1710. 2. 2nd. When any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as what is above, shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept and receive their Collection for the Poor, or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, such receiving their Collection or Employment may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting; And altho such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability to contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting. Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or themselves according to Truth, and not any ways Chargeable to the said Meeting for the Space of Three Years after the delivery of his or their Certificate, They may also then be well deem'd to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabit.

3. 3^d. Servant Men and Maids bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired for One Year, and Serving the Same faithfully & honestly, that then after such Year's Service, They also may be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof they Served, if they delivered into the Meeting within that time the Certificate they had.

4th. 4th. If any Professing Truth Contrary to former Advice, Remove without a Certificate, and fall into Want, and apply to any Friend for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of Such a necessitous Person, and know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of Friends; And if such necessitous Person have not been denied before they became thus Chargeable, That then the Meeting from whence they Came, they did belong, shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account.

This Agreement to Continue but four Years, unless it be then Renewed.

1711.

1711

An Explanation of the Fourth Article in the Last Year's Agreement, relating to the Settlement of the Poor, as follows, viz,

an
Explanation
to the 4th
Article in
1710.

If any Poor Friend or Friends shall unadvisedly Remove from their Habitations without a Certificate, and fall into Want, and Apply to any Friend where they come for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they Apply, may Write to the Meeting to which the distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Necessitous Person, and know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of Friends when they Removed, and if such Necessitous Persons have not been Denied, or were Owned, before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they came, and to which they did belong, do Reimburse Half the Charges which have been Expended upon the Account of the Necessitous, for any time not Exceeding three Months: In which time the Meeting from whence they came shall desire the Necessitous Person to Return; which they are desired to Do with all reasonable Expedition, so soon as Health & Ability of Body shall admit; And the Friends where they are, are desired to Advise and Assist them in such Return; After which Neither Meeting is obliged to continue their Care and Charge in Case they Refuse.

But if they be such as are Not Friends, or are disorderly Persons pretending to profess Truth, then Neither Friends from whence they came, nor Friends to whom they do come, are to be under any Obligation to Maintain such Necessitous Persons: Yet not to Restrain the Charity of any particular Friend or Friends from affording present Relief to any Necessitous Person.

1712.

1712

The Agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710, for the Settlement of the Poor, with the Amendment of the Fourth Article the Next Year, is now Agreed to be Continued.

1718.

1718.

1718
the poor
are our
family
& not to
be turned
off.

The Advice of 1709, Repeated: And with respect to the Poor among us, it ought to be considered, that the Poor, both Parents and Children, are of Our Family, and ought not to be turned off to any Others to be either Supported or Educated; And altho' some may think the Poor a Burthen, yet Remember, where Our Poor are well provided for, and walk orderly, They are an Ornament to Our Society: And the Rich should consider, It is more Blessed to Give than to Receive, And He who gives to the Poor, Lends to the Lord, who will repay again.

1720.

1720
No Begger
to be
among
us.
none to be
sent to the
Parish.

As Mercy, Compassion & Charity are eminently required in this New Covenant Dispensation. We are under, So Care of the Poor and Indigent among us, to see there be No Begger in Our Israel, is the Concurrent Advice of this Meeting; That all Poor Friends among us may be taken due Care of, and none of them sent to the Parish to be Relieved; That nothing be wanting for their Necessary Supply, which has been according to Our Ancient Practice and Testimony; And it has long been of good Report; That we have not only Maintained our Own Poor, but also Contributed Our Share to the Poor of the respective Parishes wherein we dwell.

See Questions, page, —

1721.

1721

A Question being proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710, —

This Meeting Concludes, That all that were not Denied, are to be Esteemed Members of the Several Monthly Meetings in whose Compass they then Resided; And it is the Sense of this Meeting, that it was not intended by the Minute of 1710, to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1728.

1728

An Explanation of the Settlement of the Poor, —
 Agreed to at the Yearly Meeting in 1728, But not to break
 or interfere with any particular Agreement of the Monthly
 Meetings of London among themselves, is as follows, vizt. —

That if any Friend or Friends for the future should
 incline to Remove him, her or themselves and Families
 from the Limits and Compass of one Monthly or Quarterly Meet-
 ing to Another, that before they Remove, they Request a
 Certificate for such their Removal.

what may
 be deemed
 Settlement.

When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of
 his, her or their good Behaviour, as above, shall bring such
 Certificate to any Meeting, to which it may be directed, and
 the Meeting Accept or receive their Collection, or put the
 said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church, in the
 Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, such receiving their
 Collection or Employment, shall or may well be deemed a
 Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: And altho'
 such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute
 to the Collection for the Poor, or the Services of the Monthly
 Meeting, yet such Friend or Friends behaving him, her or
 themselves according to Truth, and no way Chargeable to the
 said Meeting, for the Space of three Years, may then also be
 well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass
 of which they shall so three Years Inhabit.

Servants.

Servant Men and Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid
 being hired One Year and Serving the same faithfully, after
 such Years Service shall and may well be deemed to belong to
 such Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof they so Serve.

Notwithstanding the Several Minutes of Settlement in
 Relation to the Poor, there hath risen Some Disputes among
 Friends concerning the Same; We think it Necessary to Add,
 That if any Friend or Friends do for the future remove from

1728 One Monthly Meeting to Another, to Settle there, that then the Monthly Meeting to which Such are Removed, Shall as soon as possible Engage of the Friend or Friends so Removed, for a Certificate; And for Want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where Such Friend or Friends are so residing shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, to request a Certificate in behalf of Such Friend or Friends: But if the Monthly Meeting where such are then Residing do neglect to write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came for Such a Certificate, for the Space of three Years after such Residence, among them that then it shall be deemed a Settlement to such Friend or Friends, in Such Monthly Meeting they have for three Years so Resided unless such Person or Persons were Insolvent or Denied before their Removal.

We think the Minute in the Year 1711, may Stand with the following Alterations, viz^t. That the word, Poor, in the first Line be left Out; And that the whole, instead of the Half Charge be Reimbursd according to the Directions of the Said Minute.

1729.

1729 Rules & Directions Relating to Removals & Settlements, among Friends, Agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London, in the Third Month 1729.

1st First, If any Friend or Friends for the time to come should incline to remove him, her or themselves and Families from to have the Limits and Compass of One Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to Another, before they unsettle themselves, they apply to Such Meeting to which they belong for Advice and Counsel therein; of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do Approve, they give a Certificate Signifying such Meetings Consent to their Removal.

Secondly

1729

2.

what may
be deemed
a
Settlement

Secondly. When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his, her or their good Behaviour, and shall bring such Certificate to any Monthly Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept and Receive their Collection, Or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into, Such receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: And altho' such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability to contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Service of the Monthly Meeting; Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or themselves Orderly in Conversation, and no ways Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the Space of three Years after the Delivery of their Certificate, or advise thereof from the Meeting from whence He, She or They came, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years Inhabit.

3.

Servants

Thirdly. Servant Men and Women bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired One Year and honestly Serving the Same in One Family, after Such Years Service, shall and may be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof their Master or Mistress shall be proper Members.

4.

Fourthly. That the Two Weeks, Monthly or Quarterly Meeting giving a Certificate to any Person or Persons, shall Speedily write to the Meeting to which the said Certificate is directed, giving Notice thereof, and if they Omit Writing, and the Person do not deliver his or her Certificate, then the Person removing shall still belong to the Meeting from whence He or She came; But if either the Meeting give Notice, or the Person deliver His or Her Certificate, then the Person Inhabiting three Years, as before, shall be deemed a Member of the Meeting into which He or She is come.

Tilley

1729th
5.

Fifthly. If any professing Truth shall Contrary to former Advice, remove without a Certificate, and fall into Want, and Apply to any Friend for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they Apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he she or they did belong, and acquaint that Meeting of such a necessitous Person or Persons, to know how such Person or Persons did Stand in the Unity of Friends, and if such necessitous Person or Persons have not been Denied, but Owned before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they came, and to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account: And if the Meeting from whence such Necessitous Person or Persons did come shall Desire them to Return, which they are then Desired to Do with all Expedition, so soon as health and Ability of Body will admit, and the Friends where they are, are desired to Advise and assist them in such Return; But if such Person shall Refuse to Return according to such Advice, after the space of three Months, neither Meeting is Obligated to Continue their Care and Charge: Yet this is not intended to restrain the Charity of any particular Friend or Friends from affording present relief to any necessitous Person.

6. Sixthly. But if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate, 'tis desired, That the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, should make Enquiry, and get Information where to they are removed, and write to such Quarterly, Monthly or Two Weeks Meeting, giving account of their Behaviour and Circumstances, and if such Friend or Friends shall Continue for the Space of three Years after such Account received within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting where to He, She or They removed, Behaving during that time Orderly, and no way Chargeable nor become Insolvent, may then also be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall

- 1729 so three years inhabit, provided they were neither Disowned nor Insolvent before they removed.
7. Seventhly. That nothing herein contained shall Interfere with any particular Agreement among the Monthly Meetings in London respecting their Poor.
8. Eighthly. That every Quarterly or Monthly Meeting Communicate this Agreement to the particular Meetings, in order to its being publicly Read at the Close of Meetings for Worship, within three Months, or as often as they may see a Service in it, that None may plead Ignorance.

We find Ourselves at this time Engaged to Request, That Friends in any Part of this Kingdom, or other Places, where provisions and the Necessaries of Life are dear & scarce, or Sickness doth remarkably afflict, would in proportion to such Scarcity or Affliction Exert their Charitable Assistance to the Poor, which is Our Christian Duty, as Stewards of the many Mercies wherewith the Lord has Entrusted us...

1733.

1733 Whereas different Sentiments have been in the Minds of divers Friends with respect to the Minute of 1721, relating to Settlements; A Question was put, What is meant by the Word, Residence?

It was thereupon Resolved in this Meeting, That the same shall be taken in the most extensive Sense of the Word, as with respect to all Cases or Persons Inhabiting in any Place before the Year 1710, not being then disowned by Friends.

1735.

1735 See Questions, page —

1737.

1737 See Minutes & Settlements, page 307. to 311.

1751.

1751
all
Monthly
Meetings
to support
their own
Poor,
See
Removals
Settlements

It is the Sense of this Meeting, That all Monthly Meetings
Ought to take care of, and Sufficiently Support all Poor Persons
within the Limits of each Monthly Meeting according to our
Present Rule: And if such Monthly Meeting by so doing is over-
charged, that then the Quarterly Meeting shall on Application
made, give them such Relief as may be necessary.

No. 32. Concerning Preachers.

1689.

1689

A Concern coming upon Friends of this Meeting con-
 caution concerning several Persons both Men and Women, who go rambling
 against Idly up & down the Countrys under pretence of Preaching.
 Such as go up and down Truth, who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country,
 Preaching whose Conversations and Examples are not Savory as becomes
 of Unity. the Truth: Friends in the several Counties should beware of
 Such, and give No Encouragement nor Countenance to them, but
 warn them to Return and Settle in their places and honest
 Employments, and Seek Unity with their own Meetings.

1695.

1695

This Meeting desires and hopes, that you whom the
 Lord hath gifted with a publick Testimony for his Name
 and Truth, will in this Day of Liberty be diligent to Visit
 the Heritage of God in their Meetings, and most especially
 those least frequented..

1698.

1698

Where Friends in any County are really dissatisfied
 or Burthened with any that take upon them to Preach
 Preachers who are among them. Let them first be duly Admonished in their
 who are own County with the Assistance of the faithful approved
 some to be Ministers and Elders of the same Meeting & County or
 admonished adjacent County or Counties, if need be, and if afterwards
 persisting therein they will persist to Impose upon & Burthen Friends, then to
 to be be publicly Testified against, where they so Impose.
 Testified against.

If any Such after due Admonition will Travel abroad
 to Minister, out of Unity with Friends of their own
 County, the Friends of those Other Counties where they
 Travel should have due Notice of them from Friends who
 have had them under Admonition.

1699.

1099.

1099

This Meeting Recommends to the Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the several Counties, that they who Travel take care to Advise, that those Friends that go forth with a Publick Testimony, may be Such as are well Approved at home by their own respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, and are Sound in Doctrine, and of Good Conversation, and in Unity with their Own Meetings.

And if any faithful Friends, or Meetings, be Burthened with the Contrary, Let them tenderly Hear their Consciences privately to the parties concerned, giving them Gospel Order; And if they dont answer it, nor receive due Admonition, that the Meeting to which they belong may be acquainted therewith; And the Second Days Morning Meeting is desired to Send this, on this Meetings behalf, to the Several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, with the Copy of the Minute made relating to this Matter Last Year.

1702.

1702

Agreed, That Friends in the Several Counties should be Cautioned not to Receive any as Preachers among them, that are denied by Friends or Testified against by the Monthly Meeting to which they did belong.

1713.

1713

There being Several Omissions concerning Publick Friends deceased, in the Accounts brought up; It is desired, that Care be taken to Send up to this Meeting, The Time of their Decease, and of their Conversations, Labours & Services in the Work of Truth.

1716.

1716

See Meetings for Worship, page 100.

1710.

1720.

1720 Friends in the Respective Counties and Meetings are to be earnestly desired & advised, That they use Prudence & Caution, so as not to be Imposed upon by Impostors or Cheats, pretending to the Ministry or otherwise; and where there is Doubt or Question of the Ministry of any Persons in that Case, that Such be called upon to show what Certificate they have; And in General it is tenderly recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to see that Friends who Travel as in the Work of the Ministry, do go in the Unity of the Meeting to which they belong, and with Certificates therefrom.

And farther, that it may become the tender Care of the Meetings said Several Meetings to Watch Over such as may be Young in the Ministry, to see that they walk humbly and wisely, that as on the One hand Nothing truly tending to the Glory of God, and the Edification of his Church and People may be Discouraged, So on the Other hand, where any thing Appears which may make Advice Necessary, That the Elders of the Church both Ministers & Others, Do in the Wisdom of God, give their Advice thereupon, with due Regard to the State of Weakness and Childhood that such may be under.

1723.

1723 This Meeting taking under their Serious Consideration to avoid the Beauty and Credit of keeping Decency and Good Order in our Meetings for Worship, advise Friends every where to avoid Publick Opposition to a Minister not disowned by the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which He or She shall belong, by keeping on of Hats, or making any other appearances or Distinctions of Disunion; But that if any Person pretending to be a Minister, shall give Cause of uneasiness.

1723 uneasiness or Dissatisfaction to Friends in Doctrine, ~~or~~ giving Behaviour or Conversation, the Person so Offending to be dealt with privately in a Gospel Spirit and Way, and if that shall Cause of dissatisfaction to be dealt with. not take Effect, that then Complaint be made of such Person to the Monthly Meeting to which He or She shall belong, and that Proceedings thereupon be accordingly had, and See 1698. the Affair Settled with all possible Speed & Expedition.
1729.

1727.

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 209.

1728.

1728 We earnestly Desire, that a tender & prudent Care be on all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, pursuant to the Advice of Last Meeting, to Advise and Caution as they See Meet; — And particularly against all Indecent Postures & Gestures, unintelligible Tones and Sounds, Misquotations and Misapplications of Scripture, which renders such a Ministry contemptible: And that they Do not grant Certificates to Ministers to Travel abroad to Visit the Churches, until — they have full Satisfaction of their Qualifications for so great a Work, and are of Orderly Conversations, being well approved at home.

Caution against Indecent Postures & Tones. &c.
to be fully satisfied before they grant Certificates.

See Scriptures, page, 338.

1730.

1730 Friends are desired to call on Strangers, who Travel in the Ministry, for Certificates, thereby in all places to prevent being Imposed upon, as far as may be.

See Meetings for Discipline page, 183.

1731.

1731

An Epistle of Advice to Ministering Friends
that Travel — &c —

Dear & well beloved Friends

The Spirit of God being the Foundation of all true Knowledge and Experience both in Ministers and Hearers, We earnestly Exhort; That all would diligently wait upon and mind it; Ministers in their publick Services Especially ought always to attend closely to their several and peculiar Gifts; And Minister the Word faithfully as its manifested and Revealed to them, observing a decent and Modest Behaviour in the Exercise of their Ministry; and avoid Intangling themselves with the Affairs of this Life, that They may the better Answer the holy Warfare in which They are Engaged; And Let the Hearers be watchful over their own Spirits and not forwardly Judge or Censure the Testimonies which may be delivered amongst them, for if they be not very Careful and diligent in attending upon the Lord in Meetings, they are liable to mistake in the Judgment they may pass on the Ministry. . . . Now this being as we apprehend, a matter of great Moment for the Preservation of Love and Concord in the Churches, and knowing the danger & ill Consequences which attend an hasty and censorious Judging of the Ministry, We thought it very necessary to Caution the Members of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, Not to Let their own Spirits Sway them, but Let the Spirit of God Rule & Reign in the Hearts of Friends, for that will preserve all in Sweetness and tenderness One towards another; the due Observation of this, We Judge, will be a great help to Ministers in the Discharge of their Duty and Service to which they are Called.

And

1731

And We earnestly request, That the Elders in Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, would be ready to Inform the Weak, when Suitable Opportunities present, that both Ministers and hearers pursuing One and the Same End, namely the Glory of God and the Good & Welfare One of Another, the Church may be Edified — Increase & Flourish to the Consolation of the faithful: On the Other hand We Advise, That Ministers have it very much at heart to Maintain a perfect Harmony and good Understanding with the Monthly Meetings to which they belong; and that as the said Meetings may sometimes find themselves concerned to Advise them respecting their Conduct in Meetings or otherwise, that they shew themselves ready to hear and receive advice, as well as Teach and Instruct.

Ministers
to
keep good
company
with their
Monthly Meetings

&
be ready to
receive
advice

Monthly
Meetings
to be careful
in giving
Certificates.

And dear Friends, We further tenderly Advise all Monthly Meetings to take great Care to whom they give Certificates when they Travel, to prevent the Uneasiness which Sometimes falls on the Churches, from a weak & unskillful Ministry, and Let the Elders where they see Occasion Advise Ministers to be very prudent in their Conduct, Not as Busy bodies nor Meddlers with Family or Personal Affairs, in which they are not Concerned, or required to be Assisting, and that they be very tender of One anothers Reputation, and that of Friends among whom they Travel, neither giving Ear to, nor Spreading Reports apt to raise in the minds of Others a Lessening or Disesteem of any of the Brotherhood: And as soon as their Service in the Ministry is over, that they Return to their Habitations, and there take a Reasonable & prudent Care of their own Business, Household & Family.

1736.

1736

And as the Lord in Mercy is breathing afresh on Several of Our Youth of both Sexes, and fitting them for his Service; We recommend it to the Elders in every Meeting, that they tenderly watch over all Young Ministers, and Advise and help them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may be opened thereunto; Nourishing that which is Right, and comes forth in the Savour of Life; and Discouraging every thing that is Indecent or unbecoming the Ministry.

1737.

1737

If any Friend who has been a Publick Minister among you, shall be guilty of such Practices as may justly deserve your Publick Censure, and shall be Publickly Censured or Disowned by you, and afterwards upon Tokens of Repentance may again be Admitted into Membership; We do think Meet to Advise you, That such readmission be not interpreted to give Him or Her the Liberty of Appearing as a Publick Minister, until the Monthly Meeting He or She belongs to shall Judge the Scandal given by Such Person so far removed as such Publick Appearance may not Minister occasion of Reproach either from Friends or Others, and in Case any shew themselves too forward in so Appearing, the Meeting to which they belong are desired to give them such Advice as they shall see Suitable to their Circumstances.

1738.

1738

When we consider that it was the Power of the Lord which first gathered us to be a People, and Enabled our ancestors to bear a Faithful Testimony to his Name, We cannot but Exhort you time after time to wait for a renewed Enjoyment of the Power of Truth upon your Hearts, that thereby you may be Encouraged to Come up in your respective Families, and in a Consecrated Suffering for the Christian Testimony

1738 Testimony you are concerned to bear; Our Blessed Lord — just before his Ascension commanded his Disciples & followers to wait at Jerusalem till they were Endued with Power from on High, knowing their inability without the sensible feeling of that Power, to speak in his Name for the Conversion of the Nations; 'Twas this Power that Enabled them to speak boldly in the Name of Jesus; This alone made them able Ministers of Christ, whose preaching was not with enticing Words of Man's Wisdom, but in the Demonstration of the Spirit and of Power. — And seeing many of us have experienced much spiritual consolation by waiting in Silence, and humbly depending upon the Lord alone, we exhort Friends to be very careful to observe the Hours appointed for Religious Worship, and that when together, they Labour to feel their Minds abstracted from visible objects into a true Stillness and Nothingness of Self, wherein the Teachings of the Holy Spirit are Witnessed by humble & contrite Souls; in such a waiting State you will have a true Relish & Savour of the Ministry of those who are rightly concerned by the same Spirit to Labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740.

1740

Testimonies Concerning publick Friends deceased to be Recorded, — See Records, page 299.

1743.

1743

And, Dear Friends, We further desire & tenderly advise, * See as heretofore, * that the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings 1727. p. 272. would appoint some Elder Friends, sound in the Faith, 1731. p. 273. and of good Discerning, to be Advising and assisting to 1736. p. 275. those who may be concerned to Minister among us, and in Love to caution them respecting such mistakes, either in Judgment or Expression, as through humane frailty, even Good Men may sometimes be incident to.

Preachers

277

17A3

And that in Sending up to this Meeting the Accounts of Publick Friends deceased, care be taken where no particular Testimony concerning them is given, that nevertheless the Age, Place of Abode, Time of Death, and Place of Burial, as also how long they had been Ministers, be expressly mentioned.

17A5.

17A5

Whereas it appears unto this Meeting that Some Persons who are not in Unity with their Monthly Meetings, where they dwell, do Travel up & down without Certificates or Recommendation, Imposing themselves as Preachers among Friends, to the Exercise and Trouble of the Churches where they come; We do desire, that all Such Friends as Travel in the Work of the Ministry with the Unity and Approbation of their respective Meetings, would be Strictly Careful not to Countenance or Join with any such Imposters; but rather to Advise against such their disorderly practice, and Endeavour to Perswade them to Return to their Callings and Habitations; And Friends of the Several Monthly or Other Meetings, where such disorderly Persons may come, are desired to Enquire of them for their Certificates, by the Want of which they may be able to discover, that their Traveling abroad is not with the Approbation of Friends where they dwell, and who consequently are the proper Judges of their Call to and Qualification for the Work of the Ministry, to which they Pretend.

And We do in much Love Caution those Friends who are rightly concerned in the Work of the Ministry, to watch over their own Spirits, and not to be over hasty, rash or censorious in passing Judgment respecting the State of those who hear them, but to Manifest, that in the Exercise of their Ministry they are Led by the Love of God, and that their principal Aim

Preachers

1745 Aim is, That They may be instrumental to Administer Spiritual Consolation and Strength to the Churches where they come.

And further We earnestly Exhort, that None would offer to Impose themselves as Preachers, in any Meetings of Friends, who are not themselves sound. Faithful, against the Payment of Tithes, and in Observing the Other Branches of our Ancient Christian Testimony.

PRISONERS

283

N^o 33. Concerning Prisoners.

1070.

1070

See Records, page, 295.

1081.

1081

Advised, That an Account be Yearly Sent up of all Such Friends as are in Prison or Prisoners, that We may know who are detained Prisoners, and who are discharged since the Yearly Meeting before, and when discharged; Also to Signifie the Time of their Commitment, by whom Prosecuted, and for what Cause; And that distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have Died in Prison or Prisoners for their Testimony to the Truth, since the foregoing Yearly Meeting, with their Names, Ages, Dwelling Place, Education, Callings, Time of Convincement, and the places of their Travel and Service, and time of Sufferings and Death.

1082.

1082

See Questions, page —
and Records, page, 296.

1090.

1090

See Questions, page, —

1700.

1700

See Records, page, 298.

No. 25. Questions proposed at the Yearly Meeting, for the Friends who appear from the respective Quarterly Meetings to give answer to.

1782.

1782

The Committee appointed to consider the Queries, in Queries. instead of the former Queries, have drawn up the following, altered. Which were here several times read, duly considered, and agreed to. And 'tis agreed by this Meeting, that the several Counties send up their answers to the said Queries to this Meeting separate from their Accounts of Sufferings; which for the future are agreed to be taken in immediately after the Accounts of Sufferings are entered.

New

Queries.

- 1... What Present Prisoners?
- 2... How Many discharged since last Year, when & how?
- 3... How many Died Prisoners?
- 4... How many Meeting houses Built? And what Meetings New Settled?
- 5... How many publick Friends died & when?
- 6... What is the State of your Meeting? Is there any Growth in the Truth? And doth any Convincement appear since Last Year? And is Love and Unity preserved amongst you?
- 7... Is it your Care by Example & Precept to train up your Children in all Godly Conversation and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures, as also in plainness of Speech, Behaviour & Apparel?
- 8... Do you bear a faithful & Christian Testimony against the receiving or paying Tithes? And against bearing of Arms? And do you Admonish such as are unfaithful therein?

altered

Sup. 288.

11

Questions

- 17A2 9th... Do you stand clear in our Testimony against Defrauding the King of his Customs Duties or Excise, or in Dealing in Goods Suspected to be Run?
- 10th... How are the Poor among you provided for? And what care is taken for the Education of their Offspring?
- 11th... Do you keep a Record in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the Prosecutions & Sufferings of your respective Members? And have you a Record for your Meeting houses & Burial Grounds?

17AD.

17AD

the 8th
Query
altered..

It is Agreed by this Meeting, that the Eighth Query be Altered & Amended as followeth, viz^t

Do you bear a Faithful & Christian Testimony against the receiving or paying Tithes, Priests demands, and those called Church Rates? Bearing Arms, and paying Trophy Money? And Do you Admonish such as are unfaithful therein?

17C0.

17C0 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was Agreed & Concluded that the following Queries — should be here Added, and all the former Queries from London to the Year 17A2, to be omitted in Transcribing, and these only to be in Use among us.

1st... Are all Meetings for Religious Worship & Discipline duly attended, the Hour Observed, and are Friends preserved from Sleeping or any other indecent Behaviour therein, particularly Chewing Tobacco or taking Snuff?

2^d... Is Love & Unity Maintained among you as becomes Brethren, are Slandering, Backbiting & Evil Reports discouraged, and where differences arise, are Endeavours Speedily used to End them?

- 1700 3^d... Are Parents of Children Careful to bring them up in Plainness of Speech, Behaviour & Apparel, and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures, to restrain them from reading pernicious Books, and the Corrupt Conversation of the World?
- 4th... Are Friends Careful to avoid the frequent use of Spirituous Liquors, the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns, & Places of Publick Resort, and in all their Conversation Walk as becomes the Professors of the Blessed Truth, in true Moderation and Temperance on the Account of Births, Marriages, Burials and all Other Occasions?
- 5th... Are poor Friends Necessities Duly Inspected, they Relieved or Assisted in such Business as they are Capable off, do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business, and are they and other Friends Children placed among Friends?
- 6th... Do the Young or Unmarried Persons make proposals of Marriage with each Other, without Consent of Parents and Relations Concerned, nor keep Company with those of Other Societies on that Account?
- 7th... Do the Widowers or Widows make or admit of proposals of Marriage too Early after the Decease of former Husbands or Wives, and are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages Neglected?
- 8th... Do you maintain a faithful Testimony against the Payment of Priests Wages, Bearing of Arms, Training or Military Service, and against Depriving the King of his Duties or Buying or Vending of Goods Suspected to be Run?
- 9th... Are Friends Careful to make their Wills and settle their Outward Estates whilst in Health, and take Friends

1760

Friends Advice therein when necessary, and are Publick Gifts or Legacies applied to the uses intended by the Donors?

10. ... Are Friends Clear of Importing Negroes or Buying ~~them~~ them when Imported, and Use those Well where they are possessed by Inheritance or otherwise, Endeavouring to Train them up in the Principles of Religion?
11. Are Friends Careful to Live within the Bounds of their Circumstances, and to avoid Launching into Trade & Business beyond their Ability to Manage, & thereby break their Promises, and Neglect the Payment of their just Debts, and are such as give reasonable Ground of Fear on these Accounts timely-Laboured with for their Recovery?
12. ... Are there any belonging to this Meeting Removed without a Certificate, Or are there any come from other Places, appearing as Friends who have not produced Certificates?
13. ... Are you Concerned regularly to Deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekness & Wisdom, without partiality or unnecessary Delay, and where any Continue Obstinate, to place Judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth?

And it is further Recommended that all Contention and Personal Reflection, and Smiling be kept out of our Meetings, That all Friends be careful to keep out of Heats & Passions and Doubtful Disputations, and that we Suffer no Turbulent Contentious Persons amongst us, in Ordering or Managing the Affairs of Truth, But that the Same be Managed in the Peaceable Spirit & Wisdom of Jesus, with Decency, Forbearance and Love to each other.

No 25. Concerning Records.

1075.

1075

See Discipline, page, 101.

1076.

1076

What
matters
are to be
Recorded.

Agreed, That Friends of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an exact Account among themselves.

1st.. Of those that first brought the Message of Glad Tidings among them.

2^d.. Of the Sufferings of those first Messengers, whether at Steeple Houses, Market Places or Otherwise.

3^d.. What Friends first Received them and their Message.

4th.. Of the Names, Travels, Faithfulness, and Unblameable Conversations of all the Publick Labourers that are Deceased.

5th.. what Judgments fell upon Persecutors.

6th.. where the Hearts of any such Enemies have been turned to God, Let them & their Conversion be Recorded.

7th.. What Priests & others have Written Books against Friends, and who have Answered them.

8th.. Who have Suffered Loss of Goods or Sustained Imprisonment with the Cause, Time and Manner of such Sufferings, with the Names of their Persecutors.

9th.. Who have Died in Prison on Truth's Account, and for what Branch of Our Testimony: And that Tilts taken away by Force, be Recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

10th.. Of Signal Living Testimonies of dying Friends.

11th.. Of the Names of Persecutors, and the Names of Witnesses to the Facts, whether Friends or Neighbours.

12th.. If any have Apostatized, That their Sufferings whilst coming to Truth be notwithstanding Recorded, and their

1070 Apostacies Signified.

13.. Of the Return of any Back Sliders or Apostates, and the Judgments befallen any of them.

And that in Sending the Accounts of these Matters, and of Sufferings, up to London, Care be taken to begin where they Left off last, and not to Send the Same twice over, nor Confusedly.

1078.

1078

That Care for the future be taken to keep a particular Book to Enter Sufferings in each Monthly Meeting; And that by the Monthly Meetings an Account of the Sufferings be Sent to the Quarterly Meetings; And the Quarterly Meetings transmit the Account Quarterly to the Clerk & send Accounts at London, That Nothing be Lost in their Cases of Sufferings to the Quarterly Meetings for our Testimony.

See Lishes, pages, 389.

1080.

1080 It is the Desire of this Meeting, that Every Quarterly Meeting yearly enter such Papers as they have had from this or such like Meetings, in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books, the better to Secure them from being Lost.

1081.

1081

See Prisoners, page, 283.

1082.

1082 Agreed, That Epistolary Letters Read in this Yearly Epistles. Meeting be Entered in a Book; and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

Method for keeping the Records.

Draw up the Sufferings fair in a Book, and not too close; All Lishes by themselves; So for Swearings: So for Conventicle Acts; So for Twenty pounds a Month; Each by themselves; Then take the Number of all that remain in

1682 Prison, both Old & New; And the Number of them that died in Prison, and so keep a Number of them all along that are put into Prison, and that Go out of Prison; And keep a Yearly Number who goes in, and who goes out; and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689. The Abstract of Friends Sufferings from Several Counties being Considered, The Meeting thinks it most convenient to have the Abstracts made from the Records out of those Sufferings that came up to the Yearly Meeting, and which are Recorded here; So that the Meeting does not Encourage the making Abstracts in the Counties, lest they should Lessen Friends Sufferings. And when an History is taken and Published, it Should be impartially done; And Accounts of the Stops put to persecutions, and of Return of Goods; And Discharge of Prisoners, that have been procured by the Solicitation of Friends to the Powers whose Hearts the Lord Inclined to favour them.

1691. It's desired that Friends keep the Yearly Meeting Papers together in a Book in each Monthly & Quarterly Meeting.

1693. It is desired, that Friends at all their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings be reminded to Call for the Records of the Sufferings of Friends, to see that they be duly gathered, Entered and kept, and accordingly Sent up as hath been often advised; both of what Tithes, &c. are pretended to be due, and for how long a time, and the time when taken, and by & for whom, And what Goods are taken, and the value thereof, as well of those not exceeding as those exceeding the Sums or Quantities demanded, it being a Suffering in both for Truth's sake: They being in those particulars found Defective and Imperfect in divers Counties; which is

Records.

1693 an Obstruction to the general Record of Friends Sufferings, and therefore the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are desired to take more Care for the future, that all Friends Sufferings for Truths Sake may be brought up as full and Compleat as possibly may be.

1694.

1694 Advised, That when Friends send up their Yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Tithes &c., as near as can be, they give Account Therewith, how much is taken in Value, and how much it exceeds the pretended Value, and by & for whom.

Advised to remember to keep a true Record of Manifest Judgements upon Persecutors, and send up an Account thereof with the Sufferings Yearly, that the Just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the Innocent Sufferers, by Signally punishing their Persecutors, may be taken Notice of as a Warning to posterity; As the heavy Judgments, and fearful Ends of Wicked Persecutors are Recorded in holy Scriptures & Books of Martyrs &c.

1695.

1695 Advised to send up with the Sufferings, true Copies of Warrants, Writs, or Processes of Commitment attested by the Jailors.

1698.

1698 See Tithes, page, 392.

1700.

1700 Advised, That Friends keep Exact and true Accounts of all their Sufferings for Conscience Sake, both by Distresses, Sequestrations and Imprisonments, that We may be capable to give a true Account thereof to the Government when Necessity requires.

And to give Speedy Accounts when Friends are discharged from Imprisonments &c., and by what Means.

1705.

1783.

1705

It is tenderly Advised that Friends be careful to stand faithful in their Ancient Testimony, and keep Exact Accounts of their Sufferings; And when any Sufferings require speedy Care for Redress, and are written of to London, 'tis desired the Case may be truly & fully Stated, dated, and Subscribed by the Sufferer, and as often as can be Attested by some known Friend.

1780.

1780

This Meeting being Informed, that there is a great Deficiency in Entering into a proper Book, the Testimonies which are given forth by Monthly and Quarterly Meetings concerning Publick Friends deceased, Therefore Order a Book to be got for that purpose, and the Testimonies to be Entered as they are brought up.

And that the Several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings from whence they come be particularly Careful to Enter the same in their Book of Records before the said Testimonies are sent up.

1786.

1786

See Sufferings. page, 375.

Removals & Settlements

307

N^o 36. Rules for Removals & Settlements.

1737.

1737. 1. That all Friends shall be deemed Members of the Quarter
1. ^{ly}, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting, within the Compass of
which they Inhabited or Dwelt, the first Day of the fourth
Month 1737; Except Such who are Settled Pensioners to,
or have within One Year last past been Relieved by, any
Other such Meeting: In that Case He, She or They shall be
deemed a Member or Members of the Meeting to which they
are Pensioners, or by whom they have been so relieved.
2. 2^d. That if any Friend or Friends shall Remove him her
or themselves and Family from the Limits or Compass of
One Quarterly, Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting into Another,
They shall apply to the Meeting to which they belong for
a Certificate, or other usual Recommendation, to the Meeting
they are removed, or purpose to Remove into; which
being obtained and Delivered to that Meeting, Such
Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deemed a
Member or Members of the Meeting they so Remove into;
Provided they were not Insolvent, or had been relieved
by the Meeting recommending, or some other Meeting
on their behalf, within the Term of three Years preceding
the Delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who has delivered a
Certificate, or been otherwise Recommended, shall fall into
Necessitous Circumstances, and shall Ask and Receive any
Relief within the above limited Time of three Years, not
having Contributed to, or been Employed in any Service
of the Church, by the Meeting they were Recommended to,
such Friend or Friends shall then Continue to belong to the
Meeting.

1737 Meeting from whence they were recommended, yet the Meeting within the compass of which He, She or They reside shall assist & relieve him her or them, and give notice thereof to the Meeting which recommended him her or them, and upon that Meetings receiving such notice, — They shall immediately take the necessary care of him her or them, and repay the charge the Meeting to which they were recommended has been at on his her or their account

3. 3. . That No Friend or Friends, Apprentices & Other Servants excepted, shall gain a Settlement after the time above mentioned in any Meeting, unless recommended by Certificate, or other usual Recommendation, and the same duly delivered to the Meeting they are recommended to; Except the Meeting within the compass of which They reside, shall receive their Collection, or Employ them in any Service of the Church; But in Case Such Meeting shall receive their Collection or Employ them in any Service of the Church, their so doing shall Intitle such Friend or Friends to Membership with them, agreeable to the Restriction & Secour of the Second Paragraph.

Δ. Δ. . If any Friend or Friends shall fall into want, the Monthly Meeting within the compass of which they then reside, shall take the necessary care to relieve them: And in order to prevent any Inconveniencies that may arise from want of knowing with certainty to what Meeting a poor Friend or Friends properly belong, at the time they fall into want, whereby it may be rendered difficult for the Monthly Meeting which shall relieve such necessitous persons to obtain repayment of the charge they may be at on such accounts; It is agreed, that where any poor Friend or Friends shall become chargeable to any Meeting where He, She or They may reside, and who at the same time are not

1737 not proper Members thereof. That Meeting may apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members: And that Meeting upon Notice to them given of such Necessitous Friend or Friends shall take the needful Care of them, and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they reside hath been or shall be at: But if that Meeting shall apprehend such Necessitous Person or Persons do not belong to them, but have gained a Settlement elsewhere, They may fix them on any other Meeting where they have gained a Settlement; And in that Case, such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5.th 5.th. Single Men & Women Servants being hired One Year and honestly Serving the Same in One Family, after such Years Service shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Mistress shall be Members; And if such Servants shall so dwell with any who are not Friends, then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress shall Live.

6.th 6.th. Apprentices shall gain a Settlement in that Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress dwell at the time of his or her being bound, and Living Forty Days with such Master or Mistress afterwards: And in Case an Apprentice shall be turned Over to another Master or Mistress, He or She shall in like Manner gain a Settlement, after living with them Forty Days, in the Meeting within the Compass of which the Master or Mistress dwell to whom he or She is so turned Over.

7.th 7.th. Provided always, that nothing herein Contained shall be understood to hinder the usual & necessary Care of Friends in their Enquiry after Conversion and Clearance respecting Marriage, but Certificates or Other Recommendation in that

Removals & Settlements

1737 Case shall continue to be required as heretofore hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to. And whereas disputes may arise about Settlements where the Man brings a Certificate or Recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to another on account of Marriage, It is hereby Agreed, That such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be construed to make a Settlement, unless his Removal be Expressed therein.

8th. 8th. The Wife and Children to be deemed Members ~~of the~~ of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member, not only during his Life, but likewise after his Decease until they shall gain another Settlement elsewhere.

9th. 9th. Provided always, and it is hereby Agreed, That what Charge any Meeting have or may be at, for the Relief of any Friend or Friends, who where before this Settlement Members of other Monthly Meetings, shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did heretofore belong; And that if any Dispute should arise about the Settlement of such Poor Friend or Friends now under Relief, Such Settlement or Settlements shall be determined according to the former Rules and Directions; which are not to be made use of in any other Cases.

* See
as in the
Poor.

Lastly. Lastly. All Minutes, Orders and Directions heretofore made and Recommended by this Meeting relating to Removals & Settlements of Friends, are hereby declared void and of no Force. Except in the Case provided in the Ninth Paragraph.

Removals & Settlements

311

1750.

1750 It is Agreed, That no proposition for altering the Rules for Removals and Settlements of Friends made in 1737, shall be received by this Meeting, unless Such Proposition shall be Signed in and by Order of a Quarterly Meeting, or some other Meeting which do directly Correspond with this Meeting.

1757.

1757 See Discipline, page 105.

Representatives

321

N^o 37. Concerning Representatives.

1072.

1072 Advised, That One or Two of Each County that are concerned in the publick Service of Truth, in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a Year; to be chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meeting of Each County respectively for that Purpose.

See Yearly Meetings, page, 237

1087.

1087 Advised, that Such faithful Friends, One or Two of a County be desired to attend the Yearly Meeting, as are most capable & fit for the Service thereof.

1088.

1088 That Two faithful Friends in every County may be desired to come up, who know the State of Friends, and their Sufferings, in their respective Counties.

1090.

1090 That Two faithful understanding Friends in every County be desired to come up, who may be enabled to give a certain Account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties.

1091.

1091 That Two faithful understanding Friends in every County, who are truly Approved in Universal Love, Unity & Peace among Friends from whence they come, may be desired to come up, who may be enabled to give a certain and clear Account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends, and of Truths Prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700.

1700 Agreed, That no County send up less than Two Friends, nor more than Four be entered.

1700 Advised, That Friends bring brief and direct Answers to the Questions drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings, and brought in Writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1709.

1709 This Meeting understanding some Friends that are not to go Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting is out of Town Ended; It is now Advised and Agreed, That for the future no Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting Ends, without first acquainting the Meeting thereof, that the Service of this Meeting may not be neglected.

1710.

1710 Recommended, That Friends take Care that those who are desired & appointed to come up to Yearly Meetings, may be Men fearing God, of good Conversation, of weighty Spirits, prudent & sincere, and well acquainted with the Affairs of Truth at home.

1728.

1728 Advised, That the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties & Cities do appoint at Least Four Friends, in order that in Case a part should be disappointed by Sickness or other Accident, there may be a Sufficient Number to answer the Service.

1730.

1730 This Meeting gives Liberty, in Regard of the Largeness of the County of York, that for the future they may be allowed to Enter any Number as Representatives not exceeding Eight.

1733.

1733 And, Dear Friends, Our tender & brotherly Advice to your several Quarterly Meetings, is, That they would be careful

Representatives

323

1733 annually to Depute such Friends to attend the Service of the Qualification-Yearly Meeting, as are well acquainted with the affairs of the Church, and diligent attenders of the Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & Places where they Dwell, and whose Practice and Conversation is answerable to the Testimony they profess to bear.

1743.

1743 We Advise, that the Several Quarterly Meetings take care to appoint for their Representatives and Correspondents, Men known to be faithful and Conscientious in every Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1746.

1746 This Meeting observing a Deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, Recommends to the attendance required Several Quarterly Meetings, the following Minutes. viz^t.

A Minute of this Meeting in 1728. (See page, 322.)
& A Minute of this Meeting in 1733. (See page, 322 & 323)

1750.

1750 The Advice of 1728, again earnestly Recommended,
— See Yearly Meetings, page, 115.

N^o 38. Concerning Salutations.

1715.

1715

See Plainness, page 222.

1718.

1718

Advice Given against a Declension. crept in among us, by unbecoming Gestures in Cringing and bowing the Body by way of Salutation, which Ought not to be taught or Countenanced.

Schools

331

N^o. 29. Concerning Schools.

1090.

1090

See Children, page, 20.

1095.

1095

Advised, That Schools, and Schoolmasters who are faithful Friends and well qualified, be placed and Encouraged in all Counties, Cities, Great Towns, or Places, where there may be need: And that such School Masters as much as may be Sometimes Correspond One with Another, for their help and Improvement in such good and Easie Methods as are most agreeable to the Truth, and the Children's Advantage and Benefit; And that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely partake of Such Education in order to Apprenticeship.

1096.

1096

See Children, page, 21 & 22.

1097.

1097

Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are desired to take Care, that in all Places where Schools are Set up for the Teaching of Friends Children, that the Masters be diligent to Improve and forward their Scholars in Learning, and keep them out of every thing that would Corrupt Good Manners.

1725.

1725

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 191.

1751.

1751

As the want of proper Persons amongst Friends qualified for School-Masters hath been the Occasion of great

1751 great Damage to the Society in many Places as thereby well disposed Friends are deprived of Opportunities for the Education of their Children in a Manner consistent with a religious Concern for their Welfare, have been necessitated to send them to those of other Persuasions, whereby the tender Minds of such Children have been in great danger of being trained into the Language, Customs & Habits of the World, from whence it is difficult afterwards to reclaim them; We desire, Friends would attend to this Important Point; and in their Monthly Meetings assist Young Men of Low Circumstances, whose Genius & Conduct may be suitable for that Office, with the Means requisite to Obtain the proper Qualifications, and when so Qualified, afford them the necessary Encouragement for their Support.

Scriptures

337

N^o. 40. Concerning the Scriptures.

1700.

1700. Advised, That Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, and bring them up in the frequent Reading of the Scriptures of Truth, and also to Instruct them in the great Love of God through Jesus Christ, and the Work of Salvation by Him, and of Sanctification through his Blessed Spirit.

1709.

1709. We recommend it as an incumbent Duty on Friends to Cause their Children to be frequent in Reading the holy Scriptures, and in observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early Learned the Fear of the Lord, and hearkened to his Counsel; Instructing them in the Fear & Dread of the Lord, planting Impressions upon their Spirits of Reverence towards God, from whom they have their daily Support, shewing them they ought not to offend Him, But Love, Serve and honour Him in whose hand all Blessings are.

1712.

1712. We exhort all Parents of Children to be very careful to Educate and train them up in the Fear of God, & knowledge of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the holy Scriptures, and be good Examples to them in all things.

1720.

1720. Advised, That no Friends suffer Romances, Play Books, or other vain & idle Pamphlets in their houses, or Families which tend to corrupt the Minds of Youth; but instead thereof that they excite them to the Reading of the holy Scriptures and Religious Books.

1720

Let the Holy Scriptures be early taught our Youth, and diligently searched and seriously read by Friends, with due regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came, and by which they are truly opened; for they contain excellent Doctrine, Rules & precepts, Divine and Moral, inasmuch that there will be no need to Enumerate or often to Repeat Laws & Precepts; like the Jews under a Literal and Lower Dispensation and Covenant than we are called into; the true Practice of the pure Religion given us will answer all.

1723.

1723

See Children, page, 55.

1728.

1728

Advised, That Ministers as well as Elders, and all others, in all their preaching, writing and conversing about the things of God, do keep to the form of Sound Words, or — Scripture Terms, and that None pretend to be wise above what is there written, and in such pretended wisdom go about to Explain the things of God in the words that — Man's wisdom teaches; But on the contrary, that you would at proper Times and Seasons, when you find your Minds rightly disposed thereunto, give the Youth to ~~an~~ understand, that the same good Experience of the work of Sanctification through the Operations of the Spirit of God, which the holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimony to, is to be witnessed by Believers in all Generations, as well as by those in the First Ages of Christianity; In which Case, some Account of your own Experience may be helpful to them: And this we recommend as the most effectual Means for vegeting and Establishing in their Minds, a firm Belief of the Christian Doctrine in general, as well as the Necessity of the Aid & Help of the Operations of the Holy Spirit

Scriptures

339

1728 Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular, contained in that most excellent Book the Bible; for the preserving them from being defiled with the many pernicious Notions and Principles contrary to such sound Doctrine, which are at this time industriously dispersed in the Nation, to the Reproach of the Christian Religion in general.

1729.

1729 'Tis earnestly recommended to all Friends, as much as in them lies, to prevent their Children and Servants from Reading Plays, Romances, and all such Books as have any tendency to Lead their Minds from God, and draw their Youthful Affections to a Love of the World, and desire after the vanities & Evils that are therein: And also to be very Careful to prevent their Children and Servants from reading Vile and Corrupt Books (some of which have been published of late as manifestly tend to Oppose and Reject the divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to Introduce Deism, Atheism, and all manner of Infidelity & Corruption both in Principle and Practice.

1730.

1730 We did last Year, and do now again earnestly recommend and beseech all Friends to Admonish and Exhort the Youth under their Care, not to Read but refrain all such Books as tend to make void the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to promote Profaneness and Infidelity in the Earth.

1731

Scriptures

1731.

1731

It is recommended to all heads of families, that they do frequently call their Children & Servants together, and in a Solemn-Religious Way cause them to read the holy Scriptures; and in so doing that they humbly wait upon God with their Families, for Instruction and Counsel to them respecting Christian Faith and Practice.

See Children, page. 56 & 57.

1732.

1732

We tenderly & earnestly Advise and Exhort all Parents and Masters of Families, that they exert themselves in the Wisdom of God, and in the Strength of his Love, to Instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine and Precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the holy Scriptures; and that they Excite them to a diligent Reading of those Sacred Writings, which plainly Set forth the Miraculous Conception, Birth, Holy Life, Wonderful Works, Blessed Example, Meritorious Death, and glorious Resurrection, Ascension & Mediation of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; And to Educate their Children in the Belief of those important Truths, as well as in the Belief of the Inward Manifestation and Operation of the Spirit of God on their own Minds, that they may reap the Benefit and Advantage thereof, for their own Peace and Everlasting Happiness, which is infinitely preferable to all other Considerations: We therefore Exhort in the most earnest Manner, That all be very Careful in this Respect, a Neglect herein being, in our Judgment very blame worthy; And further where any deficiency of this sort Appears, We recommend to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings that they Stir up those who it may ~~concern~~ Concern to their duty therein.

1733.

Scriptures

321

1733.

1733

And Dear Friends, We must remind you to take all convenient Opportunities to put your Children upon Reading and Meditating in the holy Scriptures, which having proceeded from the Dictates of the Holy Spirit, do afford the most Comfortable and Salutary Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have heretofore often Advised, and particularly in Our Epistles of the two Last Years, in which the Advices on this head being large and Comprehensive We refer thereto.

1735.

1735

As there hath been heretofore, so there yet remains upon this Meeting a peculiar Regard to, and weighty Concern for the Offspring of Friends, that the Rising Generation might be trained up in the Principles and Practice of the Christian Religion, in order whereunto, as formerly so now again, We recommend an humble Waiting upon the Lord, for the Manifestation of his Power and Spirit, and a diligent Reading of the holy Scriptures in your Families: And that Masters of Families, Parents and Guardians of Children, at proper and convenient Opportunities, would stir up those under their Care to diligence, herein, shewing them that those Sacred Writings do contain the Doctrines and Principles of Our Profession, and Explaining to them, as the Lord by his good Spirit shall enable, the Grounds and Causes inducing Friends to Distinguish themselves by not Conforming to the vain Fashions and corrupt Customs of the World. And that one great End of Christ's coming was to form to Himself a People, who by their Lives & Conversations should be Patterns of that Simplicity, Holiness, and Charity, which our great Lord himself in the most perfect Manner exhibited, being as an Example that we should follow his Steps.

1730 By Simplicity We understand an inward Sincerity and Lowly disposition of Mind, producing that Plainness of Speech, Habit and Manners, which Christ himself, and his holy Apostles recommended.

By Holiness, an internal Purity and Renovation of Soul, wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits whereof are, a Devout & Religious behaviour, Justice and Inoffensiveness in all our Dealings & Conversation. By Charity, that Spirit of Love, Compassion & Forbearance wherein Consists the Sum and Substance of Religion, the Introduction of that universal Peace & Good-Will upon Earth, which is the great design of Christianity, as well as the Badge and Characteristick of our holy Profession; By this Saith our Blessed Lord, "Shall all Men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have Love One to Another, John, 13: 35. —

1735.

1735 As It hath frequently been the Care and Concern of this Meeting, to Advise Parents, and all who have the Tuition & Education of Children, to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, We are Still sensible that there is occasion to Repeat our tender Advice and Exhortation, that you would Lay this Matter closely to heart; for 'tis certain that the Preservation of your Offspring in the Way of true Religion and Godliness, is of much greater Moment to their Happiness both in this Life and in that which is to Come, than any thing else you are capable of doing for them; And therefore We renew our Advice, that you be diligently Exercised in such a Godly Care: Waiting upon God for Wisdom from Him, First to Walk Wisely and Circumspectly before them Yourselves, and then you may with more Weight & Authority in the Discharge

1735 of that Wisdom, Instruct, Advise, Exhort & Rebuke, as you shall see Occasion: And We think it will contribute very much to your Success in these Endeavours, if you put them frequently, in a Solemn Manner upon Reading the holy Scriptures, especially such Parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines and Precepts of the Christian Religion, and then wait upon God with them, that you may become Instruments to Open their Understandings, and in the Sense of His Power and Wisdom, press them closely to the Practice of what they Read; Such an Exercise as this begun Early, & frequently repeated, We recommend as the Indispensible Duty of all Concerned, and the most likely Means for the Preservation and Improvement of Children in the Way of Truth; and thro' the Lord's Blessing to Secure them from being prevailed upon by the many false deceitful Spirits that are gone forth into the World, tending to Subvert the Christian Faith, and a Practice and Conversation agreeable thereunto.

1736.

1736 See Children, page, 118.

1737.

1737 See Kings & Governours, page, 112.

1745.

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 191.

N^o 21. Concerning Servants. 1703.

1703 Advised, That Servants professing the Truth, behave themselves in due Subjection, Humility & Plainness, as becomes their Profession and Places; and likewise, that Masters and Mistresses behave themselves towards their Servants according to the Apostle's Direction. Eph. 6: 5, 6. Colos. 3: 1, 1 Tim. 6: 1, 2. Tit. 2: 9, 10. 1 Pet. 2: 18, 19, 20.

1718.

1718 A Religious Care is recommended toward Our Servants, that all Appearance of Pride, Idleness, and vain Conversation, them may be discouraged, that they may be Exhorted to attend First Day and Week Day Meetings, and have a Sense of God's Love upon their Spirits, and therein partake with us of the Sweetness of Truth; and in the Discharge of their Duty to God, and to their Masters and Mistresses, know Peace to themselves.

1737.

1737 See Removals & Settlements, page, 308 & 309.

N^o. 22. Concerning Singing.

1675.

1675 It hath been and is Our Living Sense and Constant Testimony according to our Experience of the divers Operations of the Spirit and Power of God in his Church. That there hath been and is Serious Sighing, Sensible Groaning and Reverent Singing, breathing forth an heavenly Sound of Joy with Grace, with the Spirit, and with understanding in Blessed Unity with the Brethren, while they are in the Publick Labour and Service of the Gospel, whether by — Preaching, Praying or Praising God, in the Same Power and Spirit; and all to Edification and Comfort in the Church of Christ, which therefore is not to be Quenched or discouraged by any: But where any Do or shall Abuse the Power of God, or are Immoderate, or do either in Imitation, which rather Burthens than Edifies, Such ought to be privately Admonished, unless rebellious; For that Life, Spirit, and Power is risen in the Church which doth Distinguish, and hath Power accordingly to Judge.

360.

Steeple House Rules

201

No. 12. Concerning Steeple house Rules.

1688.

1688

See Sufferings, page, 37A.

1693.

1693

Advised, That Our Christian Testimony against Steeple-
house Rules or Laws be faithfully maintained.

1703.

1703

See Tithes, page, 393.

1727

1727. See Tithes, page, 396

1732

1732. See Tithes, page, 396

1733

1733. See Meetings for Discipline, page, 185.

And Tithes, page, 397.

1744

1744. See Questions, page, 288.

Stock National

305

N^o 22. Concerning the National Stock.

1672 & 1676.

1672

8

The uses for which it is collected. —

1676

1. For the Service of Truth beyond Sea.
2. For Books disposed of and given away to the Chief Rulers and Others.
3. For Packets of Post Letters with Accounts of General Sufferings, and Charges of Recording, and often Transcribing the same.

1679.

1679

Disbursements out of the National Stock to be Such only as shall be Agreed and Directed by the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London, and not any Other.

1682.

1682

Six
Friends
to keep
the Cash.

Agreed, That for keeping the Moneys of the National Stock, at every Yearly Meeting Three Friends shall be Chosen, and those Three of the Six that have Served Two preceding Years, shall yearly be dismissed, and Others to be appointed in their Room as aforesaid, So that the Number of Six may be still complete, who shall have the keeping of the Cash for the general Service Intended.

1692.

1692

Resolved, That for the future when there shall be Occasion for a Contribution, Friends that come up from the several Counties, bring with them an Account of the Total Sum of each Collection that may be made in their respective Counties, to the next ensuing Yearly Meeting after

Stock National

1692 after such Collection is made, that it may be compared with the Accounts here for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698.

1698 Ordered, That when a Collection is made in the Several Counties, It may be sent up to their Correspondents here to Pay to the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Friends of the Several Counties, when they come up to the next Yearly Meeting, to bring up the Total Sum Collected & Returned in their County, to the Yearly Meeting.

1732.

1732

See Yearly Meeting, page. 222.

Sufferings

371.

N^o. 25. Concerning Sufferings.

1072.

1072. Advised. That Friends be Exact and Brief in drawing up their Sufferings in each County, of the Times, Names, Causes, and Places of both Friends and their Persecutors, distinctly, and Send them up to the next General Meeting.

1075.

1075. Agreed. That certain Friends of this City be here Nominated, to keep a constant Meeting about Sufferings four times in a Year, with the Day and Time of each Meeting here fixed & settled.

Meeting
about
Sufferings
first
appointed

Agreed. That a Meeting of these City Friends under Named be every Fifth Day of the Week before each Term.

Hatcliff. Arthur Cook, and Richard Mew.
London. John Osgood, and Thomas Rudyard.
Wheeler Street. Francis More, and William Welch.
Westminster. . . . Gilbert Latic, and James Beech.
Peel. John Elson, and John Staploe.
Southwark. . . . William Shewen, and Walter Myers.

Publick-
Friends
Members.

These Friends before Named, with as many as are free of the Second Days Morning Meeting of Publick Friends, to meet together as aforesaid.

one of each
County.

That at least One Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting thereof, to be in Readiness to repair to any of the said Meetings at this City, at such Times as their urgent Occasions or Sufferings shall require.

That the Agreement about the Meeting for Sufferings four times in a Year in London, be read to the Second Days Meeting of this City constantly before the Day of Meeting appointed.

Dear friends
asked by
Sufferings.

That the respective Quarterly Meetings be Encouraged in the Love of God, and Bowels of his Truth, to

1075 to take Care of such poor Friends as have been wasted much with Sufferings; And where any County is not sufficient to the Poor Friends wasted by Sufferings to Losses among themselves, that they be mindful of the Order be taken Care of, of recommending their Case to the adjacent Counties.

That notwithstanding the Meeting about Sufferings by the nominated Friends of this City, It is consented & agreed, that in any County, Meeting, or place in England or Wales, where any deep Sufferings may happen, the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both state their Case fit to be presented to those in Power, and send up one Two or Three faithful Friends with their Case so stated to be presented, to attend those in Power therewith for Relief, if they be moved thereunto, Or find a necessity lying upon them to Endeavour for Relief, and this a most likely way to be Effectual in their Applications.

1076.

1076 See Records, article the 1st and the Last: page 295 & 296.

1078

1078 Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.

See Records, page, 296

1079.

1079 Agreed. That any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any Extraordinary or grievous Sufferings in their County that printing they would have printed forthwith, that they give Notice thereof and send up the Same to the Meeting for Sufferings.

1081.

1081 That when Sufferings are sent up in Order for hearing, of any particular Case, the Same be writ down as well as the Loss sustained, goods Distressed, severe and Illegal Treatment or Usage, by Justices or other Persons, partial & distinct, as

Sufferings

313
278

1081 to matter of fact only; without any reflections upon the Magistrates and Persons by whom Friends have Suffered, or against whom any Complaint is made.

That Sufferings Sent up to be recorded here, be first perused by the Quarterly Meeting, and Signed.

1082.

1082

And when necessity requires that Accounts of Sufferings be sent up with such Speed, that they cannot Stay to a Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, that Such Accounts be Viewed and approved under the hands of three or four Friends at Least, to prevent Mistakes, and Loose uncertain Accounts of things complained of; And that before any Accounts be Entered in the Quarterly Meeting Books, the Same be plainly & orderly drawn up by some knowing Friends in Such Concises.

Upon Consideration of Sufferings in general, It is the Advice of this Meeting, That in Cases of Difficulty, and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of Advice, in any particular Case, they send up their respective Cases to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

108A.

108A

If a Friends Goods be Seized, and a Neighbour Buy them from the Sheriff, and they by Bill of Sale be made over to him, and he Leave them in the Sufferers Possession; It is a Suffering Case, and to be recorded as it is in itself.

It is thought most convenient that all particular Accounts of any great & extrem Sufferings which require Speedy Application or Complaint to the King &c. — after carefully drawn up and Signed by the respective Sufferers and the Truth thereof, if possible, Certified by some other faithful Friends of the same County or Neighbourhood, be brought up by One or Two understanding Sound Friends that may be Capable

Sufferings

1080 to present them, if need require, having knowledge of the particular Cases, and that No such Accounts be sent up unsigned.

1088.

1088 And it is the desire of Friends generally, That You Monthly all be careful in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings & Quarterly Meetings in collecting the Sufferings of Friends by Priests and to Collect what Goods are taken from them on that account, with Sufferings. the Value thereof: And also about repairs of Meetinghouses; And about not Swearing: And all other Sufferings on Truth's Account: and let them be carefully Recorded, & Witnessed, and Copies sent up to London from your Quarterly Meetings to your Correspondents; That the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be Lost.

1089.

1089

See Records, page, 297.

1093.

1093

The Meeting for Sufferings is Trusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth and Conscience Sake, as at first intended.

See Records, page, 297.

1095.

1095

See Records, page, 298.

1700.

1700

See Records, page, 298.

1703.

1703

And where any Friend or Friends shall be prosecuted upon any Branch of their Testimony for the Truth: that Such Labour in a Sense of the weight of their Testimony with the persecutor, before or at the beginning of his Prosecution, that so if possible, the Witness of God in him may be reached, and he convinced that their refusal to comply, proceeds not from Obstinacy, or Self Interest but from a Godly Care to preserve a Conscience void of offence towards God and Man.

1710.

1710

This Meeting desires, that for the future an Account of all Proceedings in such Suffering Cases as come under the Care of the Meeting for Sufferings and the Issue thereof, may be duly brought or Sent to that Meeting in Writing; Specifying the Places or Counties where such Sufferers dwell, with the several Proceedings in the said Cases, in order to be duly Recorded.

1781.

The Testimony of many Friends in the disapprobation of Taxes paid whosoever goes for the support of War, coming under consideration of this Meeting. It is our sense and judgment that the several Monthly Meetings collect accounts of the sufferings of our Brethren on account of said Testimony, and send them up to the Meeting for Sufferings there to be recorded after due consideration in Friends Book of Sufferings, as our Brethren's Testimony for the Truth against the appropriation of any part thereof to the purposes of War, and it is recommended to Friends that labouring to be preserved, unbiased herein as to the powers which are or may be they bear in eye single to the testimony of Truth against war and fighting.

Salebearing & Backbiting. 381.

No. 20. Concerning Salebearing
and Backbiting.

1089.

1089 Advised to Watch against and Shut out all Occasions
of Offences, Contentions, and Divisions, and in the Name of
the Lord to Stop and Judge down all Whisperings, Salebear-
ings, Backbitings, and Evil Speaking tending thereunto,
and be kind & tender hearted One to another, and earnest-
ly Labour & press for universal Love, Union & Peace in all
the Churches of Christ.

1092.

1092 Advised, to be Careful & Watchful against all whisper-
ings, Backbitings & Salebearing, to the defaming Friends
or Others: and put a Speedy stop thereto, and give righteous
Judgment upon all whisperers, & Backbiters, who appear
Instruments of Division & Offences, contrary to that peace-
able Truth and Gospel We Profess; and where any have
received Offence against any Other, first to Speak private-
ly to the party Concerned, and Endeavour Reconciliation
between themselves, and not to Whisper or Aggravate
Matters against them behind their Backs, to the Making
Parties and the Breach wider.

1095.

1095 Let these just and upright Commands of God be Obser-
ved. Lev. 19. 16. Thou shalt not go up and down as a Sale-
bearer among thy People. and Exod, 23: 1 Thou shalt not
raise a false report, and Psalm, 15: 3. He that backbiteth not
with his Tongue, nor setteth Evil to his Neighbour, nor taketh up
a Report against his Neighbour. &c. tis only such I do
think will stand wide in the Lords favour.

Salebearing & Backbiting

1695 in his Holy Will: Wherefore in the Fear of the Lord, Stand against all whisperers, Backbiters, Salebearers, Defamers, and Slanders; and against whisperings, Backbitings, Salebearings, Reproaching and Slandering, and put a Speedy Stop thereto, as much as in you lies; For such Works of Darkness and Envy tend to Division & Discord, and the Righteous Law of God goes against both the Authors, Fomenters, Receivers and Encouragers thereof, See Prov: 11. 12, & 18. 8. and 20. 19. & 20. 20. 12. and also 2 Cor: 12. 20.

1719.

1719 The former Advice of 1695. repeated, with this Addition, And therefore if you hear a Report of a Friend, be careful not to report it again, but go to the person of whom the Report is, and Enquire if it be true or not, and if it be true, then Deal with such a person for it according to the Doctrine of Christ, Matt: 18. . . . But if false, then Endeavour as much as in you lies to Stop such reports; for as Solomon Says. A Good Name is rather to be Chosen than great Riches. Prov. 22: 1.

1721 1721. The Advice of 1695 & 1719. Repeated.

1725 1725. The former Advice Again Repeated.

1727 1727. The Same again Recommended.

1733.

1733 We think proper to Exhort Friends every where to avoid all whisperings, Backbitings, and Salebearings, tending to Blemish the Reputation of any, or to Sow Discord and Create evil Surmisings One of Another: a practice which ought to be Zealously discouraged, as being of a most pernicious consequence.

Talebearing & Backbiting

383

1733 to Society; 'Tis therefore Recommended, that when any ~~Man~~ shall hear a Report of such a Nature, they take an Opportunity to acquaint the Person concerned thereof, before they again Report, or be Instrumental to Spread the Same: And in Order to Stop the Mouths of all Talebearers and Slanders, Friends would do well to manifest their Aversion to such a Practice: The North Wind, saith Solomon, "driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue."
"Prov. 26. 22.

See Defamation, page 95 & 96.

1744.

1744 whereas it may so happen, that some Friends may suffer much in their Reputation & Character by a Detracting Spirit, which too much prevails among some bearing our Name, who shelter themselves under a pretence, that they say no more than they have heard from others; But will not discover who they are: Wherefore to prevent this Evil of Reporting and Talebearing to the prejudice of Others, It is Agreed, that such Reporters or Talebearers shall either discover the Authors, or be Dealt with, and Justified against, as Authors thereof.

No 17. Concerning Tithes.

1675.

1675 Advised, That our Ancient Testimony against Tithes, which We have Borne from the beginning, and for which many of our ancient have deeply Suffered, some not only the Spoiling of their Goods, but Imprisonment even unto Death, be carefully & punctually upheld and countenanced in the Power of offenders God: And that all those that Oppose, Slight or Neglect that Testimony, be Looked upon and Dealt withal, as unfaithful to the Ancient and universal Testimony of Truth, according to Gospel Order established among us.

That Truths Testimony against Tithes, and Friends Innocency in Suffering, be kept to, and the Innocent Endeavours may be used to Save them from being taken away, yet that Friends be careful of Violent Struggling to detain them, when the Adversary comes to take them by Force.

1676.

1676 That Tithes taken away by Force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

That all Friends have a Care that they neither Openly nor Secretly Consent to the taking away of their Tithes, nor to the Payment of them by any one whatsoever on their behalf, but keep faithful to their Testimony.

1678.

1678 And because Some have not kept an Account of the Tithes in kind, that have been taken from them, as if that were no Suffering, because the Priests and Impropiators pretended Due; We find Ourselves engaged in Spirit to desire you to reckon that of Tithes amongst the other Sufferings

1078 Sufferings that you send up; and for the time to come to take the same Care of Recording all taken away upon that Account in your Book of Sufferings.

See Records, page 290.

1082.

1082 It is the Sense of this Meeting, that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth, have a Testimony against the Paying of the Tithes pretended to be Due from the Testator, and ought to bear his Testimony against Payment thereof.

1087.

1087 We do in the Love of God and his blessed Truth and Testimony of Jesus Christ, recommend to your tender & Christian Care, That Friends in the Several Counties Do sincerely keep to their Antient and Christian Testimony against that old and great Oppression of Tithes, for which many faithful Friends & Servants of Christ have deeply Suffered, some till Death in Jails; and Several still do Suffer, whereby it appears that the Priests, as they were the First, so they are like to be the Last Persecutors for Conscience sake; — And also We request it of you carefully to Collect, and make Return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings, whether by Imprisonments, or by taking away Tithes taken Goods, as Corn, Cattle or other Goods, either by or without Law, both which are Sufferings, and ought to be accounted of, and Entered upon Record, in behalf of all Faithful Friends, who stand clear in their Testimony for Truth.

1689.

1689 We desire that your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the peaceable Spirit of Christ, as becomes true Christians, rather suffering patiently in the Spoiling of your Goods, than any way to Strive or Struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by Force; but singly Commit your Cause to the Lord, who will plead it, and Judge Righteously.

1690.

1690 That all Friends be faithful in their Testimony against Tithes of all Sorts, knowing that Since they were Ordained by Christ, they were Imposed and Originally Sprung from that Antichristian Root and Popish usurpation in Church and State: And that Friends would tenderly Consider that where any decline their Testimony, or are negligent in this weighty Case, they do thereby Increase the Weight & Burthen of Sufferings upon them that are faithful, and strengthen the hands of their Adversaries.

1691.

1691 That the Christian Testimony against Tithes, may be duly kept up, and such as are unfaithful therein be diligently Exhorted to Obedience & Faithfulness to Christ Jesus, that they may not strengthen the Persecutors hands, Increase Others Sufferings, nor make void Truths Testimony therein, which so many have offered & laid down their Lives for.

1692.

1692 That Friends be careful & diligent to keep up their Ancient Christian Testimony against the Oppression of Tithes, For the more faithful & Unanimous Friends are therein, We are Heally perswaded, the Lord will the Sooner make way for our Case and Deliverance from that Burthen.

1693.

1693.

- 1693 Advised, That our Christian Testimony against the grand Oppression and Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Born and greatly Suffered for, be faithfully maintained in all respects.

1696.

- 1696 With respect to a Proposal about taking a Farm, and Agreeing to pay so much the more to be Exempted from Tithes, It's left to the Several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to Advise Friends to be careful that nothing be done that tends to weaken our Testimony against Tithes by any, and that such be admonished as they see Cause.

1698.

- 1698 Advised, That our Antient Christian Testimony against Tithes be not Avoided or Shuned by any indirect Ways or Courses with Landlords or otherwise: ... And that Friends be Careful to keep a true Record of the Value of what is taken from them on that Account, in the Field or Otherwise, whether it Exceeds the Demand or not; with the respective date of each Suffering, and the Time when any Suit is Commenced.

1701.

- 1701 Our Testimony against Tithes and Forced Maintenance in this Gospel Day, being Received from Christ our Head and High Priest, is not of Our Making or Imposing nor from the Tradition of Men, but what We have from Him, by whose Divine Power We were raised up to be a People, and by which We have been preserved to this Day, knowing that His Ministry & Gospel are free, according to His own Express Command, ~~that~~ Freely Ye have received, Freely Give.

1703.

1703.

1703

This Meeting taking Notice, as well from the Accounts of Sufferings ^{brought} in from divers Counties, as Relations by Several Friends now present, that in many Places Advantages are taken upon Friends, by making Stoppages upon them in the way of Trade, or by Debtors or otherwise, or by Kindred or Neighbours, Laying down the Money for Tithes, or Church Rates, so called, and that this Way of proceeding grows & increases upon Friends in many Places.

It is therefore recommended, as the Sense and Advice of this Meeting, to the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to stir up Friends in their respective Meetings to Zeal & faithfulness in this respect, That They may not Consent to, or Connive at, such Payments, Stoppages, or Discountings on such Accounts: But to deal plainly and earnestly with their Relations or Neighbours who shall so pay, or others who shall so Stop or discount, and not discharge the Debt by Crossing their Books, if Tradesmen, or otherwise, but keep the Debt still in demand, and be as wary & careful as they can for the future, to keep such Persons, as much as in them lies out of a Capacity of Stopping upon them, that they may thereby discourage all such Ways of proceeding, which tend to Weaken or Lessen their Testimony, and not to bring in such Stoppages as Sufferings, in as much as they do not discharge the Debt, which if they should do, they would thereby allow the Stoppage, and so let fall their Testimony.

This Meeting declares it is their Sense & Judgment, that no Friend in Truth can either Pay or receive Impropriate Tithes, being Inconsistent with our Christian Testimony; And it is desired Friends of the Several Counties may be advised thereof.

1706

1700.

1700 This Meeting understanding that Notwithstanding the Judgment and Advice formerly & frequently given by this Meeting against the payment of Tithes, and more particularly in the Year 1703, against the Paying or Receiving of Tithes by any that profess the holy Truth with us; there are some Persons who go under Our Name do yet continue not only to pay them, but some few also here & there, having Estates in Improprate Tithes, which are the same in Nature, Ground & Root with the Tithes paid to the Priest) Do not forbear as yet to receive them, to the great Dishonour of Our holy Profession, and Grief of Faithful Friends (tho' Others have conscientiously and very honourably given up and released them) This Meeting thereupon doth now again signify, as the Unanimous Sense and Judgment of Faithful Friends, that for any among us in this Gospel Day to pay or receive Tithes, (which were a part of the Ceremonial Law, belonging to the Levitical Priesthood, and were abrogated, and taken away by the coming, and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross) doth directly oppose, and tend to overthrow the Ancient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes, which hath been born by Friends from the beginning of our Day, not only by Word & Doctrine, but by Deep Sufferings, and Sealing ever with the Blood of some of our Dear and Faithful Brethren, who have cheerfully Laid down their Lives by long and hard Imprisonments in Confirmation of that their Conscientious Testimony.

In the Sense hereof, this Meeting doth earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings where of Friends; that they be careful and Diligent to make general Observations how Friends do answer and bear up that Testimony against Tithes in their Practice; and if they

1706 shall find any going under Our Name, that do either Pay or Receive Tithes, that They use their best and utmost Endeavours, in the Spirit and Order of the Gospel, and in the Exercise of great tenderness and brotherly kindness, to Inform, Convince, Exhort, Admonish and Reprove, as they see Cause, all Such without respect of Persons, in Order to gain and bring them to the Acknowledgment and Obedience of the Truth in that particular. — And if after such tender & gentle Dealing with them, any Such shall continue in their unfaithfulness and Opposition to the principles and Christian Practice of Friends in that Case, That then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting unto which Such Person shall be reputed to belong, having exercised Christian Patience and Forbearance towards Such, and finding themselves Clear in the Sight of God, Do Manifest & Declare, that Such for their Unfaithfulness and Opposition to that Our Christian Testimony, are unworthy to be Admitted to the Meetings for Business amongst Friends, Or to be Received to join in the Collections made by Friends for the Service of the Church of Christ; And if after that, Such Persons shall persist in Such their Unfaithfulness and Opposition, That then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, proceed farther in the Lord's Power to give Judgment for the clearing of Truth and Friends, as in the holy Counsel and Wisdom of God, they shall be directed and Guided therein.

1720.

1720 Former Advice Again Recommended.

1725.

1725 'Tis Advised and earnestly recommended, that in as much as it doth Appear there is in some Places a Shortness and deficiency in bearing a faithful Testimony against Tithes. That in any Monthly Meeting which have Such Members after a deliberate Dealing with them in the Wisdom

1725 of Truth, and the Meek Spirit of the Gospel, for their help and Information. Friends have recourse for their further Proceedings to the Yearly Meeting Minute 1706.

1727.

1727 It doth appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under difficulty on account of Stoppages made in respect to Demands for Small Tithes, and Church Rates, so called, and for Illegal Seizures without Warrants on such accounts, which are in some places made, whereby we apprehend a voluntary Compliance is implied, which doth tend to weaken and lay waste Our Testimony: And therefore this Meeting doth tenderly renew the Caution and Advice thereupon given in a Minute in the Year
* p. 393. 1703, whereunto we refer. *

1730.

1730 Friends are heartily desired and Intreated to Read and Disperse Anthony Pearson's Great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good Effect, if read with a single Eye, to manifest the Inconsistency of Tithes, with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731.

1731 Former Advices of this Meeting again recommended, and particularly that in 1706.

1732.

1732 Recommended to the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, tenderly to advise and earnestly Exhort Friends to be careful in bearing a faithful Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Priests Maintenance, and Church

1732 Church Rates so called; the want whereof in some places hath tended to the Uneasiness and Sorrow of many Brethren, and added to the Sufferings of Such as have stood faithful in this our Ancient and Christian Testimony.

1733.

1733 This Meeting observing a Remissness in some places in respect to our Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes; an earnest Concern and Zeal has been on the Minds of Friends, that all might be excited and stirred up to faithfulness therein; In Order whereunto, We think necessary to put you in Mind, That the Zeal of our Friends who have abode faithful in their Testimony against paying Tithes, Steeplehouse Rates, and Priests Maintenance, has greatly tended to the Opening the Eyes of many, not only in this but also in other Countries: _____

We received last Year an Account from New England where our Friends formerly underwent grievous Sufferings, that a Law is made exempting them from paying either to the Maintenance of the established Ministers, or the Repairing of their Worship houses: And it is our Belief, That if all Friends here had been faithful in their Testimony against Tithes, the Time of our Deliverance from that Oppression, under which this Nation yet groans, would have been nearer at hand. We do therefore earnestly exhort to a close coming up in that, and every other Branch of our Testimony, tending to the Promotion of Gospel Liberty; which it has been our Concern ever since we were a People, thro' manifold Sufferings, to Maintain. And if any Weakness or unfaithfulness shall appear among the Professors of Truth, We hope faithful Friends and Brethren will not be wanting to administer help and Admonition in the

Sithes

1733 The Love and Counsel of God, as they shall see Occasion, for the Restoring and Strengthening of Such; according to the Advice given by the Apostle, Gal: 6. 1. "Brethren— if a Man be overtaken in a fault, Ye which are Spiritual, Restore such an One in the Spirit of Meekness."

See Meetings for Discipline, page 185.

1734.

1734 And, Dear Friends, for the Sake of those particular — Persons in some Places, who yet continue firm in Maintaining their Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Sithes, We think Necessary to Repeat the Advice given Last Year, That Friends as they shall see Occasion, in the Wisdom of God, would Admonish Such, & in a Spirit of Love and — Meekness Endeavour to help and Strengthen them, and to Excite and Stir them up to faithfulness in that Branch of our Ancient Testimony.

1735.

1735 And, Dear Friends, as it hath been the Concern of this Meeting frequently to Advise, That Friends should stand faithful in their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Sithes, so We do now Renew Our Advice in that respect.

And We earnestly Intreat the faithful among you, to take all suitable Opportunities of Endeavouring to demonstrate to such as are Weak and unfaithful, the Importance of Our Testimony against Receiving or Paying of Sithes, the natural Tendency whereof is to obtain that Liberty which the purest Ages of Christianity Enjoyed, that is, a Liberty for any Person moved by the holy Spirit of God, to Preach the Doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ freely, and

1735 of which they were not deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine and Practice were found Amongst the Professors of Christianity; and the Civil Powers were prevailed upon to Meddle with the Consciences of the People, which of Right are to be Subjected to God only.

We cannot therefore but bless the Lord from an experimental Witnessing of the Comfort and Spiritual Advantage which arises from Such a Liberty, that He was pleased to raise up our Worthy Elders, and give them a Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke, making them willing in this and other Nations to Suffer for that Testimony, thereby Shewing to the World what the Love of Christ is able to Do; but we believe nothing Short of that Love could have enabled them to Suffer the Spoil of their Goods, and the Long Imprisonments of their Bodies, even unto Death, as some of them did for their Conscientious Refusal to Pay Tithes: And we have Reason to believe that if all among us had followed their Example, by abiding faithful in this our Christian Testimony, we might before this time have been in a great measure relieved from under that Oppression.

1736.

1736 And Dear Friends, as we have ever since we were a People maintained our Christian Testimony against Tithes, and forced Maintenance of Ministers, as Contrary to the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, we cannot but repeat our earnest Exhortation, that Friends every where stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free; and beware of burthning their own Consciences, by a mean Submission to an Antichristian Yoke of Bondage thro' fear of Suffering: A Meek and quiet Spirit under temporal Inconveniences for the sake of our Christian Testimony is one of the best Proofs of

1736 of our Sincerity therein, and may be a Means of Effectually recommending us to the Compassion of those whom God has placed in Authority over us, to whose hands He has committed the Power of giving us Relief, and from whom it becometh us to seek it with Humility and Patience.

1737.

1737 This Meeting being informed that Friends in several Parts of this Nation are in the Practice of Calling on their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes &c. And to Enquire whether such as bring in no Account, Do stand clear in their Testimony; Which having had a good Effect, It's therefore recommended that Friends thro' the Nation fall into the said Practice; And if they find any deficient, and persist in the same, that such Friends be Dealt with, pursuant to the directions, and former Advice of this Meeting, and particularly in p. 397 & 398. 1733, * and those recommended therein. & p. 185.)

You have been often reminded of the Importance of Our ancient Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, and as you are Convinced in your Consciences of the Inconsistency with the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, It's certainly your necessary Duty to act agreeable to such Convictions; and if Sufferings for your Testimony shall be the Consequence of your Obedience therein, It will become you, after the Example of the Primitive Christians, cheerfully to Submit, and to take Joyfully the Spoiling of your Goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of Offence toward God, and at the same time by your—
Christian

1737 Christian Meekness and Innocent Deportment give reasonable Evidence of your Sincerity to Men.

See Trading, page, —

1738.

1738 We therefore tenderly Exhort all who profess the Truth, to Watchfulness and Zeal, that this Branch of our Christian Testimony be not laid waste by Connivance, or Private Agreement with Priests or Impropriators: But that all abide Patient under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear, not doubting but that the gradual Progress of real Christianity will at length operate to the Removal of a Yoke so directly Contrary to the Liberty where with Christ hath made us free.

17ΔΔ.

17ΔΔ See Questions, page, 287.

17ΔΔ.

17ΔΔ See Questions, page, 288.

1750.

1750 Whereas it appears that the Method of taking the Priests Demands, without Warrant, or due form of Law, prevails more in some places than heretofore; Friends are therefore intreated to be as much upon their Guard, as possible, against the Introduction of any Practices that may tend to Encourage Unfaithfulness or Collusion, a Disposition altogether unbecoming the Nobility of Truth, and inconsistent with the Uprightness it Requires.

110

Tomb Stones

AM

N^o 18. Concerning Tombstones.
1717.

1717

This Meeting being informed, That Friends in Some Places have gone into the vain and empty Custom of erecting Monuments Over the Dead Bodys of Friends, by Stones, Inscriptions, Tombstones, &c. And being very desirous Friends should keep a commendable Plainness and Simplicity in this as well as other respects; It is therefore the Advice of this Meeting, That all such Monuments as are already in being Over Dead Bodys of Friends, should be removed, as much as may be with Discretion and Convenience: And that there be any where made, or Set up by or Over the Dead Bodies of Friends, or Others in Friends Burying Places for time to come.

Trading

A13

No. 107. Concerning Trading.

1075.

1075 Advice. That none Trade beyond their Ability, nor stretch beyond their Compass; and that they use few Words in Dealings, and keep their Words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardness, Dishonour to the precious Truth of God.

1088.

1088 Advice. Not to Launch forth into Trading and Worldly Business beyond what they can Manage honourably and with Reputation among the Sons of Men, and so that they may keep their Words with all Men; and that their Yea may prove Yea indeed, and their Nay may be Nay indeed, for whatsoever is otherwise cometh of the Evil One; And Such who make themselves Guilty by thus dishonouring God, and the holy Profession of his Name and Truth, Such are for Judgment by the Truth, and the Judgment of Truth ought to be set over them, that the Truth & those that abide and walk in it may be clear of their Iniquities.

1092.

1092 It is advised and earnestly desired, that the Payment of Just Debts be not delayed by any Professing Truth, beyond the Time promised and Agreed upon, nor Occasion given of Complaint to those they Deal with, by their backwardness of Payment where no Time is limited; Nor any to overcharge themselves with too much Trading and Commerce, beyond their Capacities to discharge a Good Conscience towards all Men; And that all Friends Concerned be very Careful not to let

Trading

1692 Contract Extravagant Debts, to the Endangering the Wronging Others, and their Families which some have Done, to the grieving the hearts of the Upright; Nor to break their Promises, Contracts or Agreements in their Buying or Selling, or in any other Lawful Affairs, to the Injuring themselves or Others; Occasioning Strife Contention, and Reproach to Truth and Friends:

And it is Advised, That all Friends that are Entering into Trade, or that are in Trade, and have not Stock sufficient of their Own to answer the Trade they aim at, be very Cautious of running themselves into Debts, without advising with some of their ancient & Experienced Friends among whom they Live, and more Especially such Trading as hath its dependance on Sea adventures.

1697.

1697 See Plainness, page, 239.

1702.

1702 We earnestly desire that all professing the blessed Truth with us, be very careful to keep their words & Promises, by paying their just Debts without unreasonable delay, and do Justice to all Men, for Righteousness Sake, and to prevent the great Reproach and Scandal of Defrauding any Persons by breaking in their Debts, or otherwise Injuring any.

1703.

1703 Advised, That all Friends be weighty & Circumspect in their Conduct and Management of their outward Affairs, and Careful to keep within Compass of their own Substance, to prevent Failures and Breaches.

1708.

1708 To prevent the great Scandal and Reproach which any professing Truth may bring on it, by breaking in other
 their

Trading

Δ17

1708 Men's Debts; We Remind you to Exercise a Godly Care therein, as much as in you lies, by giving timely Caution to any such as either Break their Promises, or delay the Payment of their just Debts, or otherwise render themselves suspected.

1709.

1709 Truth leads all who faithfully follow it, to do Right and Justice to all, and not Defraud or Wrong any, in any way of Commerce, Trade, Trust, or Dealing, much less to put any abuse upon the Government, &c.

See Kings & Governours, page, 139.

Also the Advice in 1703, again recommended.

1710.

1710 Considering the great Sufferings that hath been brought upon Truth & faithful Friends, by divers Professing Truth amongst us, breaking their Words, Promises & Obligations to the great Injury of Others, by not Paying their just Debts in due Time, and the sad Consequences thereof, and Reproaches brought thereby, Notwithstanding our great Care, and many warnings given for prevention thereof, which being too many to recite here; — We refer you to the Advice formerly given by Our ancient Friend & Brother G. J. to Shopkeepers, Merchants, Factors or any other Friends: Which this Meeting hath thought proper to Recommend unto you in Print, and Advise that it be read in your Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, as you may see Occasion, at Least once a Year.

1720.

1720 Let all promises and Obligations for Payment of just Debts be truly kept and performed.

1725.

1725 It is earnestly desired, that all Friends every where

Trading

1726 be very Careful to avoid all inordinate pursuit after the things of this World, by such Ways & Means as depend too much on the uncertain probabilities of hazardous Enterprises, but rather Labour to Content themselves with such a plain Way and Manner of Living as is most agreeable to the Self-Denying Principle of Truth which We profess, and what is most conducive to that Tranquility of mind that is requisite to a religious Conduct through this Troublesome World. — And the Advice in 1710, Repeated.

1727.

1727 'Tis earnestly desired, that all Friends be very Careful not to Run into Larger Trading & Business than their Capacities and Abilities can well answer; And that they may frequently Inspect their Circumstances, and Do not Live at an Expence beyond them: And if thro' Adverse Accidents any should fail in paying their just Debts, and should after his or her Composition with his or her Creditors, be so far Blest & prospered in their Affairs, as to be capable of paying their Deficiencies; It is the earnest Desire & Advice of this Meeting, that they do not Omit the Same, it being agreeable to the Command of the Gospel, and Common Justice among Men.

See Negroes, page, 219.

1728.

1728 For as much as Repeated Occasion, hath been given of great Grief and Affliction to Friends, which hath caused the Way of Truth to be evil Spoken of, by the Launching Out of divers under Our Profession, too far into the Affairs of this World, to their own hurt, the Reproach of the Society, and Wronging other Persons of their just Properties: We recommend great Care and Circumspection to all Friends in this Respect, and in particular to Refer to the Advices in the

the

1728 The Yearly Epistles 1710, and 1722, and last Year; And do Desire Friends at their Several Monthly Meetings, to use their utmost Endeavours, by a watchful Eye, to prevent, as much as in them lies, all such unjust Practices and Scandals.

1729.

1729 Notwithstanding many are the good & wholesome Advice, which in former Years have been recommended from this Meeting, exhorting to faithfulness and perseverance in all Goodness and Honesty; Yet to our Grief, we find there are fresh Instances of great Shortness in coming up in the practice thereof, particularly by some injurious defrauding their Creditors of their just Debts, and not performing their Word and Promise, which have occasioned grievous Complaints; Wherefore we desire & Intreat, when any such Occasion of Reproach shall be, that whatsoever Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof it may happen, they do not fail Speedily to Set righteous Judgment on the head of the Transgressor.

1730.

1730 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 183.

1731.

1731 See Conversation, page, 60.

1732.

1732 We find it our Duty to remind our respective Members of the remarkable Uprightness & Honesty of our Friends in the beginning, in their Commerce and converse; How exact were they in performing Their Words & Promises, without evasive Excuses, and insincere Dealings! How careful not to Involve themselves in Business which they understood not, nor had Stock of their Own to manage! How Circumspect not to Contract greater Debts than they were able to pay in due

Trading

1732 due Time! which brought great Credit and Reputation to our religious Society: But with Sorrow we observe, that Contrary to their Example, and the repeated Advices formerly given by this Meeting, particularly in the Years 1729, & 1731, against an inordinate Pursuit after Riches, too many have Launched into Trade and Business above their Stocks and Capacities, by which unjustifiable Proceedings, and High Living, they have involved themselves and Families in Trouble and Ruin, and brought considerable Loss upon Others, to the great Reproach of our holy Profession.

We therefore recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to have a watchful Eye over all their Members, and where they observe any Deficient in discharging their Contracts, and just Debts in due Time, so as to give reasonable Suspicion of Weakness or Negligence, that Friends do earnestly Advise them to a suitable Care, and necessary Inspection into their Circumstances in order that they may be helped: And if any proceed contrary to such Advice, and by their failure bring open Scandal & Reproach on the Society, that then Friends justifiably may & ought to Testify against such Offenders.

1735.

1735 Again, Dear Friends, We esteem it our Duty to renew our former Advices, That Friends every where, take diligent Care to prevent, as much as possible, Persons professing with us Defrauding their Creditors of their just Dues, to the great Scandal and Reproach of our holy Religion, by timely Admonishing and Cautioning all those of our Society, who by delays in Payment, and breaking their Words and Promises, give reasonable Cause of Suspicion that their Circumstances are desperate.

1735 desperate: Advising all Such to Inspect Their Accounts, and give up their Effects in time, in Order to make the best they can to their Creditors; which will most conduce to their own Peace, and Credit & Reputation of our Christian Society: — But if any thro' Ambition or desire of Grandeur in the World, shall reduce themselves to Insolvency, after having been thus plainly cautioned and Dealt with, according to the Nature of the Offence, and pursuant to the Advices of this Meeting in the Years 1728 and 1732, to which we refer you, then the Society will justly be clear of Reproach arising from the Misconduct of Such. — A Care of this Nature, we earnestly recommend, not only to Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their private Capacity watch over, Advise and Caution One another when ever they observe any real Occasion.

1737.

1737 As some Reproach and Scandal have been brought upon our Religious Society, by some bearing Our Name falling short of answering their just Debts, and others professing with us, being unfaithful in bearing a Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Notwithstanding the Several wholesome Advices given from this Meeting to the contrary: We declare it to be the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting, That no Person who shall fail as aforesaid, Ought to be admitted to Act in Meetings for Business, or join with Friends in collecting for the Poor and the Service of the Church, untill they have made Satisfaction in the Monthly Meeting they belong to, and Done what is in their Power, to take off the Reproach they have by their

1737 Their imprudent Conduct brought on our Christian-
Principle.

See Conversation, page, 65.

1738.

1738

See Conversation, page 65.

Concerning Taxes.

1781.

1781

The Testimony of many Friends in the nonpayment of Taxes part whereof goes for the support of War, coming under consideration of this meeting in 1781. It is our sense and judgment that the several Monthly Meetings collect accounts of the Sufferings of our Brethren on account of said Testimony, and send them to the Meeting for Sufferings there to be recorded after due Inspection in Friends Book of Sufferings as our Brethrens Testimony for the truth against the appropriation of any part thereof to the purpose of War; and it is recommended to Friends that labouring to be preserved robbers, herein as to the Powers which are or may be, they keep an eye single to the Testimony of Truth against war and fighting.

This is inserted under the head, Sufferings, page 375.

N^o. 50. Concerning Wills.

1091.

1091 Advised, That Care be taken in each Monthly Meeting that Friends who have Estates to dispose of by Will or otherwise, be particularly Advised to make their Wills, or settle their Estates, in due Time, to prevent the Inconveniencies, Loss & Trouble that may follow upon their Relations and Friends, and Injury to the Poor, thro' their Dying Intestate; Delays and Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers Respects.

1095.

1095 The above Repeated, with this Addition —
Making Such Wills in due Time, will Shorten no Mans Days; But the Omission or Delay thereof has proved very pernicious to many, and Injurious to Truth.

1096.

1096 See Poor, page, 253.

1703.

1703 Knowing how quickly many are removed by Death, 'Tis weightily recommended, That all Friends in Time of Health, and Strength of Judgment, take Care firmly to make their Wills, and to dispose of their Substance, as in Justice and Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.

1705.

1705 The Advice in 1703, repeated.

1706.

1706 See Orphans, page, 227.

1710.

1710 This Meeting recommends the Visiting the Sick amongst Friends

1710 Friends timely, and see that they make their Wills in due time.

1713.

1713 Desired, That Friends will take Care that None do unadvisedly bring themselves or Others into Sufferings, by undertaking Trusts or Executorships, where they cannot Legally discharge that Trust.

1715.

1715 Advised, That Trustees and Executors concerned in Wills and Settlements do take especial Care, that They faithfully discharge their respective Trusts, according to the Intent of the Donors & Testators; And that all Charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests, and Settlements of Estates by Will or Deed, intended and given for the Use of the Poor, the Aged, the Impotent, or Putting Poor Friends Children to Education or Apprenticeships, may not be appropriated, or converted to any Other Uses than such as the Donors and Testator have directed and Enjoined them by Legal Settlement, Will or Testament.

Yearly Meeting

137

1671. Concerning the Yearly Meeting.

1672.

1672
Yearly Meeting
Constituted. Agreed. That One or Two of each County, that are concerned in the publick Service of the Truth in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a Year; to be chosen or Elect-ed by the Quarterly Meetings of each County respectively for that purpose.

And the publick Labourers to be here in the same Week, on the second Day at Even at farthest.

to be held
at London
in the
Whitsun
Week. That for the better Ordering, managing & regulating of the publick Affairs of Friends relating to the Truth, and the Service thereof: There be a general Meeting of Friends held at London Once a Year, in the Week called Whitsun week to consist of Six Friends for the City of London—

Representa-
tives to be
Chosen.

Three for the City of Bristol—

Two for the Town of Colchester. — and —

One or Two from each County in England and Wales. to be chosen at their respective Quarterly Meetings next preceeding the said Week called Whitsun Week, and to be in London on the second Day of that Week.

As many Friends that Labour in the Truth, as have free-
dom thereunto may be present at the said Meeting.

All Others except Such as are Nominated by the Quarter-ly Meetings are desired to forbear coming to the said General Meeting; Except such Friends as they when met together shall see meet to admit.

The Said Yearly Meeting of Representatives to continue till further Order.

1673.

1673

Agreed. That the General Meeting consisting of Two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about publick Business, appointed

Yearly Meeting

1672
Meeting of
Representatives
discontinued

appointed the 29th of the Third Month 1672 till further Order,
be discontinued till Friends in Gods Wisdom shall see
further Occasion.

That the General Meeting of Friends who Labour in
the Work of the Ministry do Continue as formerly appointed
1677.

1677
Revived.

Then Agreed, That the Yearly Meeting of One or Two
from each County, as formerly agreed upon at a General
Meeting in London, upon the 29th of the Third Month 1672,
Appointed Yearly to meet about the publick Affairs of
Friends, sometime in the Week called Whitsun Week, until
further Order, and afterwards agreed to be Discontinued
from the 2^d of the Third Month 1673 till Friends in Gods
Wisdom should see a further Occasion for it, Be again
Revived and begun this time Twelve Month, and then
Friends to Advise about the Continuance thereof, as they
in Gods Counsel shall see Occasion.

1678.

1678

It is the desire of this Meeting, That you would
Nominate One or Two Friends to come up the next Year
at the usual Time, for the Service of Truth, and that they
bring with them the Total of the Sufferings of the foregoing
Year not before Sent up, and whatsoever else you desire
Information or Assistance in, Let it be writ and Subscribed
by Some of your Meeting in the Name of the Rest:

The End of this Meeting not being Limited to the Case of
Sufferings, but Intended for the more general Service of
the Truth, and Body of Friends, in all those things wherein
We may be capable to Serve One another in Love.

The End &
Subject of the
Meeting.

Yearly Meeting

139

1679.

1679 Agreed, That Friends be desired in their Quarterly Meetings respectively to take care to appoint some faithful Friend or Friends to attend this Meeting this time twelve Month as formerly.

Mr. Since this Time it has annually continued.

1681.

1681 A Yearly Meeting in Wales agreed to be held about Wales. a Month before that of London.

1688 &c.

1688 See Representatives, annis, 1688, 1690, 1691. page, 321.
1690
1691

1695.

1695 Agreed, That the Friends of the West of England may Bristol. have a Yearly Meeting for worship at Bristol.

1695.

1695 The Good and blessed Intent & End of This, and all our Intent of Assemblies is, with the Lord's Assistance, for his honour, Yearly Meetings. in the promoting and maintaining of our Christian Society and Religion in Life and Practice in all the Parts and Branches thereof.

1696.

1696 See Epistles, page, 119.

1697.

1697 Ordered, That Such faithful Women Friends as have Women Publick Friends. a publick Testimony, that are in the City at the Time of the Yearly Meeting, may have their Liberty to Sit with their Ministering Brethren at their Second Day's Morning Yearly Meeting for worship.

1698

Yearly Meeting

1698.

1698 *Northern Yearly Meeting.* A Proposition that Friends may have a Yearly Meeting for worship only, for their Comfort, and to provoke One another to Love and Good Works, for the Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and any other Neighbouring Counties that are free to join with them, Consented to, until this Meeting shall otherwise direct, and upon Conditions that it may not Interfere with the Service and Power of this Meeting.

1699.

1699 Declared, That it was and is the Intent of this Meeting, that those Meetings which are or shall be held Yearly in any of the Counties or Places in England, distinct from this Meeting, be only for worship; Also that they continue Only from Year to Year, entirely Subject to the Advice of this Meeting.

1700.

1700 See Representatives, page, 321.

1707.

1707 Agreed, That when this Meeting directs the Morning Meeting, or any other Meeting, to a Service, That henceforth the said Meetings should be provided to give an Account to the next Yearly Meeting.

1709.

1709 Representatives not to go out of Town before the Meeting Ends. — See Representatives, page, 322.
And See Meetings for Discipline, page, 179.

1718.

Yearly Meeting

111

1/10.

1710
orderly
managing
the
business

It is the Desire and Agreement of this Meeting, That the Business and Concerns thereof be Solidly, in the Fear of God, managed & carried on without Contention or Striving, and with as few Words, and in as pertinent Expressions to the Matter in hand as may be, for Expedition of the Affairs thereof without Loss of Time, or any ways disordering the Meeting: But One at a Time Speaking and standing up; That all things may be done decently and in good Order.

1718.

1718
the Intent
and design
of Yearly
Meetings.

Friends are reminded, That the Intent and holy Design of Our Annual Assemblies, in their first Constitution, was for a great and weighty Oversight & Christian Care of the Affairs of the Churches, pertaining to our holy Profession and Christian Communion, That Good Order, True Love, Unity & Concord may be faithfully followed and Maintained among all of us, as a peculiar People Called and Chosen out of the World, and the Errors and Corruptions thereof; knowing also that Sincere Love & Union in general, will be a great Cause of Truths prosperity among ourselves, and of the prevalence thereof over the World, and the Spirit of it. All which seriously Considered, We Sincerely desire and humbly hope: That God will graciously please more and more to put into the Hearts of Friends and Brethren to be Zealously Concerned, that universal Love, true Union, Peace and Concord be followed and maintained in all the Churches of Christ; And all the Contrary as Enmity, Division, Discord & Strife, watched against and shut out for Ever, that the Power & Peace of our God may prevail and Rule in all our hearts more and more, whereunto We are Called in One Body, that the God of Love and Peace may be with us forever, which is the Earnest desire and Travel of the Souls of all the faithful.

1719.

Yearly Meeting

1719.

1719 Advised, That the Several Meetings do Commit the Copies of the Yearly Meeting, whether Printed or Written, to the Custody of Some Suitable and able Friends, to whom Friends may have Recourse as Occasion requires; Or they may be Read in Meetings at Suitable Opportunities.

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 181.

1720.

1720 By a Proposal from the Yearly Meeting in Bristol, held the 16. & 17th Days of the Third Month last; Sent by —
Circular Yearly Meeting in the Western Counties. Samuel Bowness and Joseph Dibble, Desiring Liberty — from this Meeting, to Set up a Circular Yearly Meeting for Worship, in the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wilts, Worcester, and Bristol; The First Circular Meeting to begin the Second First Day in the Seventh Month next coming, at Bradford; —
 The said Proposal being taken into Consideration, It is Agreed, That the said Circular Meeting may be held, Provided it be with these Restrictions; First that the Meeting be for Worship only; and Secondly, That the Time of holding the said Circular Yearly Meeting be in the Seventh Month in every Year.

1731.

1731 See Conversation, page, 60.

1732.

1732 It is Agreed, That all Papers to this Meeting, from —
Papers to be Signed. Half Yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings ought to be Signed in such Meetings.

It is Agreed, That for the ~~At~~ Future, the Meeting for Sufferings shall Nominate Six Friends out of their own

Members —

Yearly Meeting

1733

1732 ^{Method} ^{for choosing} ^a ^{Clerk} Members, to this Yearly Meeting, in Order for this Meeting to choose Three out of Them, instead of those who are to go out, to be Cashiers for this Meetings Stock; And that the Persons so Nominated be such as are Members of the said Meeting.

1733.

1733 ^{Method} ^{for choosing} ^a ^{Clerk} Agreed, that in Order to prevent Debate in the Yearly Meeting, respecting the Choice of a Clerk, that the Several Meetings that are Members of this Yearly Meeting, be divided into Five Districts, as follows, viz:

North.

Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland.

South.

London, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Berkshire..

East.

Essex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Norwich, Lincolnshire, Cambridgehire & Ely, Huntingdonshire..

West.

Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcesterhire, North Wales, South Wales.

Midland.

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire.

And that a Clerk be annually Chosen by One of the said Districts, in the Course and Order that they do now stand.

And that as the Clerk for the present Year is of the Northern District, So next Year One to be Chosen by the Friends of

Yearly Meeting

1733 of the Southern; And the Year following by the East, and the next Succeeding Year by the West, And the Year after by the Midland District; And so on a continual Rotation, - untill the Same shall be Altered by the Yearly Meeting.

And in Order that the Election of a Clerk as aforesaid, may be made in a convenient Manner, We think it will be proper, that the Meetings Composing the District on whom the Election for that Year doth fall, be first called Over, and the Names of the Representatives of Such Meetings, be first Entered; And that They then immediately Retire into the Chamber, in Order to a Nomination of a proper Person to propose to the Meeting for their Approbation as a Clerk for that Year.

Advice Concerning deputing proper Persons to Attend the Yearly Meeting; See Representatives page 323.

1735.

1735 This Meeting desires that all Propositions from any Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings to this Meeting, be delivered in Writing, and Signed by Order of Such Meetings.

2^d Days Morning Meeting. Ordered, That the Second Days Morning Meeting which precedes every Yearly Meeting, Do only Consist of Public Friends, and Such Friends as are or Shall be, pursuant to the Minute of 1727, appointed to Sit in the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministering Friends.

Conclusion of the Meeting. It is Agreed, that immediately after the Finishing of the Business of this Meeting, there be a Seasonable Opportunity for the Ministering Friends, and Other Members, in the Wisdom of Truth, to Speak what may be upon their Minds

Yearly Meeting

1113

1735 Minds to Mutual Comfort and Edification, And it is Ordered, That at such Times, No Persons be permitted to Stay in the Meeting, Except Publick Friends, Representatives and Correspondents. — After which it is Agreed that a publick parting Meeting be held.

1736.

1736 Ordered. That all Letters directed to the Yearly Meeting, Letters. except from such Meetings as regularly Correspond therewith, be perused by a Committee, who are to Consider and Report whether the Same be proper to be Read in the Meeting or not.

1742.

1742

See Questions, page 287.

1745.

1745

See Appeals, page, A.

1746.

1746

See Representatives, page. 223.

1750.

1750

This Meeting observing with great Concern, a Deficiency in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting; Some being Represented but by One Friend, and One without any, cannot but Strongly recommend an Observance of the Minute in 1728⁺, which directs that not less than Four Friends should be appointed for each County, that in Case of Sick-
ness or Other Accident, there may be a sufficient Number to answer the Service of the Meeting, by the want of which the Business is too often Obstructed.

+ See
Representa-
tives. page.
222.

1760.

Yearly Meeting 1700.

1700 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island. it was Agreed and Concluded that the following Method for Constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders should be here added —

1.st 1.st. That in each Monthly Meeting some Solid Friends of either or both Sexes, be appointed for each particular Meeting, as Elders, to have the Oversight of the Ministry, and to advise and counsel, both the Ministers at home — and such who travel amongst them, as they in the wisdom of Truth may see necessary.

2.nd 2. . That the Ministers in Unity, and Elders so appointed within the compass of each Monthly Meeting, meet by themselves once in three Months, and wait to feel their Minds Seasoned with the Virtue of Truth, and then Read the Queries, and make diligent Enquiry into the State of their Members, and form such Answers thereto as appear agreeable to their States, the said Answers to be Signed by their Clerk & some Friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders therewith; where the Queries are again to be read and answered, and at the Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting, that general Answers in writing be Drawn up and Transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, by Friends appointed to attend the Same, and that the Ministers in Unity and Elders appointed as above directed, shall be only deemed proper Members of said Meetings.

Yearly Meeting

AA7

1760
3.

3. . That where any Friends come forth by way of publick Ministry, that the Elders and those of Experience, have a tender Care over them, and after a suitable time of tryal, if their Conversations be Clean and Blameless, and Friends are convinced that the Lord hath called them to that weighty work, that then the Monthly Meeting to which they belong, Do recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers (by a Minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may Set in the Meetings of Ministers and Elders. —

